Sunday, April 19, 2026 No 108 ₹8

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Quickly

'Accused in TCS case concealed marriage'

A survivor in the alleged sexual harassment case at a TCS unit in Nashik has told police that one of the accused established a physical relationship with her against her wishes while concealing his marriage, and also put pressure on her to convert to Islam. As the police obtained extension of custody of two other accused, Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday held a high-level meeting.

No parking of heavy vehicles on highway: SC

The Supreme Court has said no heavy vehicle should be parked on national highway carriageway except at a designated bay. The court underscored the safety of the commuters as an integral facet of the right to live with dignity and a constitutional obligation under Article 21. The court invoked Article 142 to pass the order.
Details on Page 8

Varsity funds: Guv orders investigation

Governor and Chancellor of state-run universities

Thaawarchand Gehlot has issued a notification constituting an inquiry commission for probing alleged irregularities at Kuvempu University in Shivamogga. This action follows a proposal from the state government, requesting the Governor to initiate disciplinary action against the officers and employees of the university.
Details on Page 5

Court stays FIR order against Rahul Gandhi

The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court on

Saturday restrained its order directing an FIR against Congress MP Rahul Gandhi in connection with the alleged dual citizenship controversy. The high court bench will now hear the parties on whether prior notice to the accused was legally required.
Details on Page 8

Iran closes Hormuz strait again over US blockade

TENSION UP: 2 Indian-flagged vessels come under fire

CAIRO/DUBAI/LONDON, AGENCIES

The standoff over the Strait of Hormuz quickly escalated again Saturday as Iran reversed its reopening of the crucial waterway and fired on ships, including two Indian-flagged vessels, attempting to pass, in retaliation after the US pressed ahead with its blockade choking off Iranian ports.

Iran's joint military command said Saturday that "control of the Strait of Hormuz has returned to its previous state... under strict management and control of the armed forces". It warned that it would continue to block transit through the strait as long as the US blockade of Iranian ports remained in effect.

Reacting to the development, US President Donald Trump warned Iran not to "blackmail" Washington with its flip-flopping on the fate of the Strait of Hormuz.

"We're talking to them. They wanted to close up the strait again — you know, as they've been doing for years — and they can't blackmail us," Trump said at a White House event. Trump said there would be "some information" about Iran later in the day, adding: "We're taking a tough stand".

Revolutionary Guard gunboats on Saturday opened fire on a tanker transiting the strait and an unknown projectile hit a container vessel, damaging some of the containers, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations Centre (UKMTO) said without identifying the vessels.

Security intelligence firm Vanguard Tech identified the tanker as the India-flagged tanker Sanmar Herald. It cited the captain as saying two IRGC patrol boats approached it with no radio contact and "shots were fired, resulting in damage to the bridge windows".

TankerTrackers.com reported that two Indian-flagged vessels were forced to turn around after being fired on by Iran, including a supertanker carrying Iraqi oil.

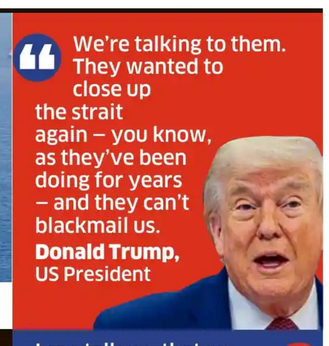
Vanguard also reported the IRGC threatened to "destroy" an empty cruise ship that was fleeing the Gulf after Tehran on Friday announced a brief respite.

The renewed escalation resulted from attempts by both sides to maintain leverage amid negotiations over an ultimate deal to end the war and address Iran's nuclear program.

On the negotiation front, Iran said that it is reviewing new proposals put forward by the US. Iran's Supreme National Security Council said in a statement that Pakistan's army chief Asim Munir, serving as an intermediary, presented the proposals to Iran when he recently visited Tehran, and they were still under review. It was not revealed what was in the proposals.

Meanwhile, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on Saturday that the US military is preparing in coming days to board Iran-linked oil tankers and seize commercial ships in international waters.

Ships in the Strait of Hormuz off the coast of Oman. REUTERS



"We're talking to them. They wanted to close up the strait again – you know, as they've been doing for years – and they can't blackmail us.
Donald Trump, US President

"I can tell you that no enriched material is going to be shipped to US. This is non-starter and I can assure you that we're not going to accept things that are non-starters.
Saeed Khatibzadeh, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister

WEST ASIA DEVELOPMENTS

- **Israel** says its air force eliminated a "terrorist cell" in southern Lebanon, despite the ceasefire
- **One Indian-flagged oil tanker crosses** Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, while at least four others turn back
- **US military** preparing to board Iran-linked oil tankers and seize commercial ships in international waters, Wall Street Journal reports
- Iran's top national security body vows no **"compromise, retreat"** in US talks
- Iran partially **reopens its airspace** to international flights crossing its eastern part
- **Ceasefire** between Tehran and Washington is due to **expire on Wednesday**

India summons Iran envoy

India on Saturday summoned Iranian envoy Mohammad Fathali and conveyed its strong protest after two Indian-flagged vessels had to reverse course in the Strait of Hormuz following an incident of firing by Iran's Revolutionary Guards. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri conveyed to the envoy India's "deep concern" at the shooting incident.
Details on Page 6

Nod for shipping insurance pool

To shield Indian shipping from global risks following the West Asia conflict, the Centre has approved the creation of the 'Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool' (BMI Pool), backed by a sovereign guarantee of Rs 12,980 crore, to ensure uninterrupted maritime insurance coverage. The decision comes as shipping insurance premiums have skyrocketed by nearly 1,000%.
Details on Page 6

Modi slams 'anti-women' Congress after Bill defeat

Addresses nation a day after Lok Sabha setback to govt

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday likened the defeat of the delimitation Bill for early implementation of women's reservation with "foeticide" committed by the INDIA bloc parties to stall empowerment of women.

In a televised address, a day after the delimitation Bill tied to the women's quota was voted out in the Lok Sabha, the PM slammed the Opposition and "apologised" to the women of India. "We may not have got 66% of the votes, but we are blessed with 100% support of the women," he said.

Calling the Congress "anti-reform" and "anti-women", Modi said the grand old party was opposed to several policies like Uniform Civil Code, One Nation One Election, SIR, CAA, and financial policies like GST and unified digital payments.

"The Congress opposed a move to chase illegal immigrants, they opposed the SIR, Waqf reform and the CAA. They kept the idea of OBC reservation hanging for 40 years, they kept the One Rank One Pension idea for 40 years...The Congress has caused several losses," the Prime Minister said.
▸ Modi, Page 4

"Congress wants to fan hatred in the name of delimitation and wants to divide the country. Congress has always hated the idea of women's reservation. But the other parties, too, have done the women a disfavour.
Narendra Modi, PM

'Distress address': Oppn

The Opposition termed the PM's address a "distress address", insisting he should apologise for delaying the 2023 women's quota law. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said a "desperate and frustrated" PM turned the address to into a "political speech, full of mudslinging". Page 8

BJP mounts attack on Oppn

The BJP on Saturday mounted an offensive against the Opposition over the Bills. At a Cabinet meeting, the PM asked ministers to ensure the INDIA bloc "pays the price" for defeating the Bill and asked the ministers to take to social media to spread the message. Page 8

SSLC 3rd language: State files review plea in HC

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government has filed a petition before the Karnataka High Court seeking review of the April 15 order directing authorities to conduct the valuation of the recently conducted SSLC examination as per the existing rules. The review petition is likely to come up for hearing on April 21.

On April 15, while disposing of the petition filed by three students who opposed the government's decision to replace marks with grades for third language, the high court had directed the authorities to conduct the valuation as per the rules prevailing on the date the notification for the examination for the academic year 2025-26.

The court had observed that in law it is a well-settled principle that there shall not be any change in the rules of the game midway and a strict adherence to the guidelines or rules issued at the time of starting of the examination should be followed.

In the review petition, the government stated that it intended to reduce examination stress and bring about a level playing field between the urban and rural students by introducing a grading system instead of marks for the third language.

The review petition contended that the petitioners had not disclosed the April 10 notification by which the draft rules - Karnataka Secondary Examination Board First (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2026) – have been published. The draft rules would amend the Karnataka Secondary Examination Board First Regulations introducing the grading system for the marks obtained in third language/ National Scheme Qualification Framework (NSQF), effective from the 2025-26 SSLC exam.
▸ SSLC, Page 4

Delay in Bengaluru civic body polls? Govt writes to SEC

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Contrary to its public assertion that the long-delayed Bengaluru civic polls will be conducted by June-end, the state government has now requested a three-month extension from the State Election Commission (SEC) for holding the local body polls in the city.

In a communication dated April 15, KG Jagadeesha, secretary of the department of personnel and administrative reforms (DPAR), has cited reasons such as ongoing works related to the National Census, which includes household surveys, and the proposed special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the state for seeking the extension.

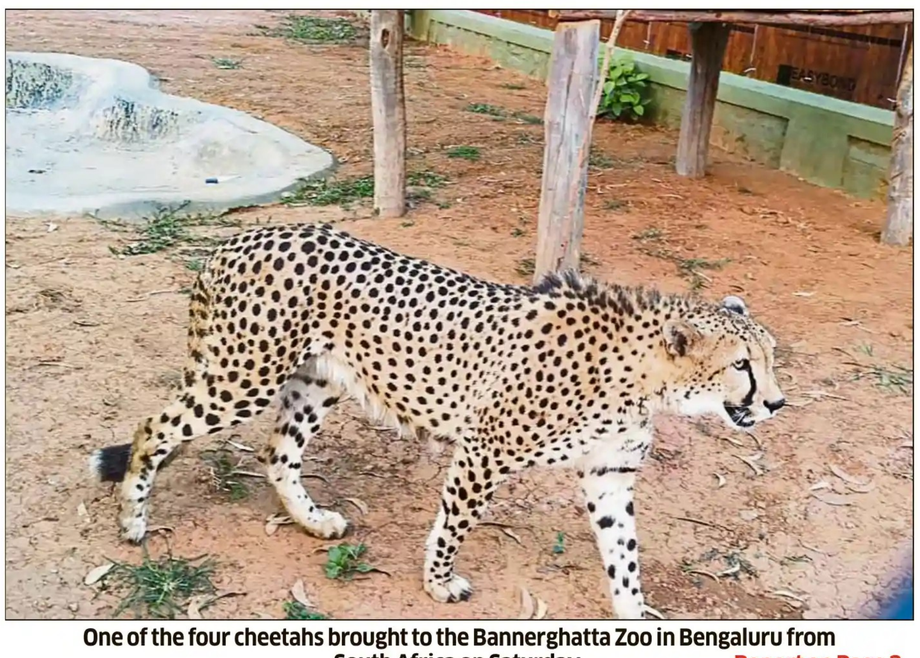
The communication — approved by Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh — has been written based on the request of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao. On April 8, Rao wrote to the government that the GBA staff is fully involved with the census works such as house listing, supervision and arrangements of logistics.

"There is limited time for preparing for the local body elections," Rao had stated, adding that the same set of officers would also be required for the SIR work.
▸ B'luru polls, Page 4

GBA publishes final voter rolls

The GBA on Saturday published the final electoral roll covering a total of 369 wards. According to the electoral roll, there are a total of 88.95 lakh voters in Bengaluru. The announcement of the final voters' list, an important component of the election process, will now pave the way for the State Election Commission (SEC) to hold the civic polls.
Details on Page IV

NEW ARRIVAL



One of the four cheetahs brought to the Bannerghatta Zoo in Bengaluru from South Africa on Saturday. Report on Page 3

2 Nagas killed in Manipur's Ukhrul district

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Two Nagas were killed in an ambush in Ukhrul district in Manipur on Saturday, a day after the Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh made his "peace mission" tour to the Naga-dominated district.

The two, belonging to Tangkhul Naga community, died after a passenger vehicle on the Imphal-Ukhrul Road was ambushed by suspected Kuki militants near TM Kasom village. Two persons died on the spot while a few others received injuries.

During his visit to Ukhrul on Friday, Singh asked the Deputy Commissioner, Ukhrul to take extra steps to ensure safety of passengers on the stretch of NH-202 passing through Ukhrul in view of the tension involving the Nagas and the Kukis since last month.
Details on Page 8

Govt increases DA by 2% to central govt employees

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Union Cabinet on Saturday approved an increase of dearness allowance (DA) and dearness relief (DR) by 2%, benefiting about 50.46 lakh central government employees and 68.27 lakh pensioners.

The combined impact on the exchequer on account of an increase in both dearness allowance and dearness relief would be Rs 6,791.24 crore per annum, said Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw while briefing about decisions taken at the Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The approval to release an additional instalment of DA to central government employees and DR to pensioners with effect from January 1, 2026, represents an increase of 2% over the existing rate of 58% of the basic pay/pension, to compensate for the price rise.

This increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission, a statement said.

The government revises dearness allowance and dearness relief twice a year, in January and July, as part of its regular compensation framework for employees and pensioners. These adjustments are meant help salaries and pensions keep pace with rising prices.

DEEP SCARS

1 yr after Pahalgam, Kashmir reflects on loss, livelihood

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

As Kashmir prepares to mark the first anniversary of the Pahalgam terror attack next week, the focus is not just on remembrance, but on the lasting damage such violence has inflicted on the Valley's people and economy.

The attack in Pahalgam on April 22, 2025, left at least 26 people, mostly tourists, dead in one of the deadliest assaults on civilians in recent years.

Investigations later indicated the involvement of terrorists linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba, with Indian agencies stating that the attackers were Pakistani nationals.

For Kashmir, however, the consequences went far beyond the attack site.

The immediate fallout was visible in tourism — the Valley's economic mainstay. Panic departures and mass cancellations were reported within hours of the attack, with airlines even adding flights as tourists rushed to leave.

Official data later showed the scale of the impact: tourist arrivals dropped by over 50% in 2025 compared to the previous year.

The Jammu and Kashmir government acknowledged that the attack "severely impacted tourism, livelihoods and all stakeholders linked to the sector".

From hoteliers to pony handlers, the losses were widespread.

"Whenever such incidents happen, it is the common people who suffer the most," said Mushtaq Chaya of the Jammu and Kashmir Hoteliers Club. "It takes months to rebuild confidence."

The impact was not limited to the Valley.

Kashmiris studying and working outside reported renewed suspicion and stereotyping in the aftermath of the attack — an experience that has followed terror incidents in the past. "After the attack, people started asking if we support such things," a Kashmiri student in Delhi said. "We are the ones who suffer from this violence, yet we are judged for it."
▸ Kashmir, Page 4

Tourists pose for a photograph at Pahalgam, in Anantnag district of Jammu & Kashmir. PTI FILE PHOTO

How NIA cracked conspiracy trail

With the first anniversary of the April 22, 2025 terror attack in Pahalgam approaching, the NIA has pieced together the conspiracy through a layered investigation involving technical inputs, questioning and on-ground verification, even as further investigation into the incident continues.
Details on Page 6

Scheme for women entrepreneurs loses steam

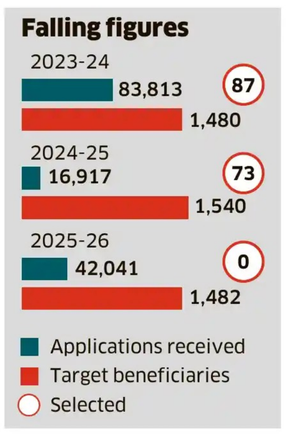
DH SPECIAL

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka government's 'Udyogini' scheme, which aims to encourage women entrepreneurs by providing them subsidies up to Rs 1.5 lakh on loans to start their own business, has hardly helped anyone in the last three years, reveals government data.

Since 2023-24, only 160 of the 1,42,771 applicants have benefitted from the scheme, a minuscule 0.1%, according to data. Considering the financial constraints in approving all the applications, the government itself had set a target to process 4,504 applications over three years, and even against this target, the progress is just 3.5%.

The minister for women and child development, Lakshmi Hebbalkar, said the constituency-level committees vetting the applications were not giving approvals, delaying the process.
▸ Govt scheme, Page 4



"A committee headed by each MLA has powers to approve two to three applications. Considering that the number of applications are high, the committee has found it difficult to just choose one or two. Hence, we have not received the final beneficiary list to process the applications.
Lakshmi Hebbalkar
Minister for Women and Child Development

Sunday, April 19, 2026 No 108 ₹8

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DH on Sunday

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CM Siddaramaiah pitches for SC bench in South India

P4

CJI hails K'taka Lokayukta as conscience of the state

P5

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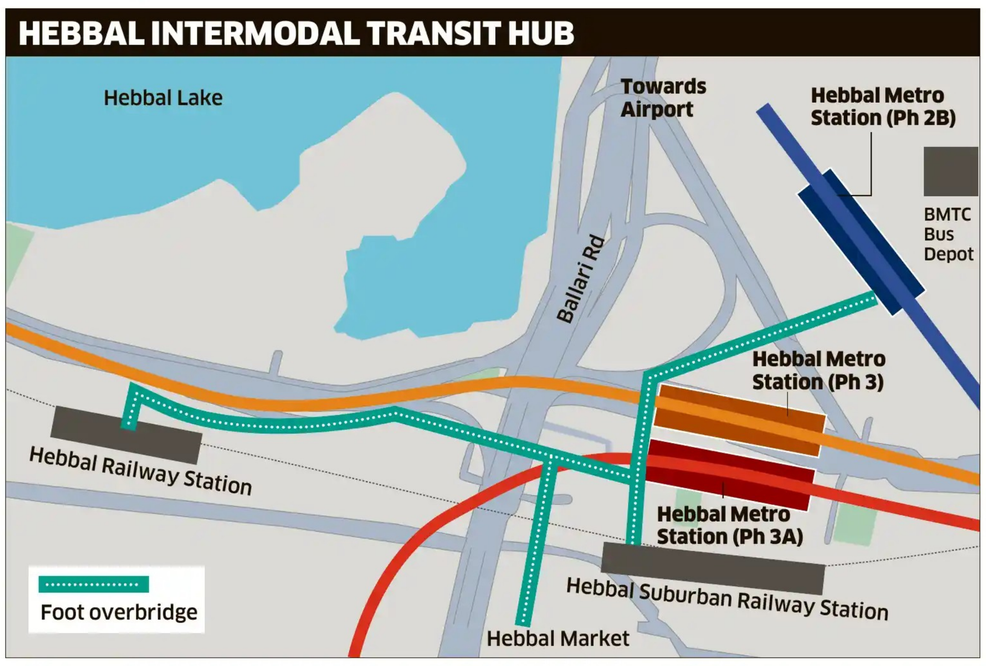
TRANSIT TWIST HC ruling puts renewed focus on Namma Metro's plans for busy junction

Hebbal: A multimodal transit hub or lost opportunity?

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS



The Karnataka High Court ruling in the Hebbal land case has brought renewed focus to Namma Metro's ambitious plans for the critical traffic junction.

Hearing petitions by landowners, the court on April 10 ordered a CBI probe into the acquisition of 53 acres and 26 guntas in Hebbal and Hebbal Ammanikere villages by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) in 2004. It termed the acquisition a "monumental fraud committed by state authorities in collusion, collaboration and criminal conspiracy" with Lakeview Tourism Corporation, a non-existent entity.

The land, originally acquired for a tourism project, has remained undeveloped for over two decades. Landowners have not been compensated either.

With the land lying vacant, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) in March 2024 sought 45 acres and 5½ acres to build a depot, multi-level parking and a multi-modal hub. It offered Rs 12.1 crore per acre — the rate fixed by the KIADB.

The BMRCL had previously acquired 6,712.97 sqm (1.65 acres) from the KIADB for station and viaduct construction for Phase 2B.

However, citing legal complications, the government allotted the BMRCL only nine acres. The high court order adds a new twist to the saga.

Speaking to *DH* on the condition of anonymity, several BMRCL officials said that they were sticking to the revised plans for now.

Of the nine acres, 4.62 acres are being used for the Phase 2B station, viaduct and parking. The remaining land is earmarked for property development, building foot overbridges to two upcoming metro stations (under Phases 3 and 3A) and a suburban railway station, and other uses. The plan is to turn Hebbal Junction into a major transit hub.

The Phase 2B (airport line) station is coming up near the BMTC bus depot, while the Phase 3 and 3A stations will be located along the Outer Ring Road (ORR), close to the Hebbal flyover's Nagawara ramp. The suburban railway station will be built across the road, close to the railway tracks.

"An FOB of about 200 metres will connect the stations. From the Phase 3A metro station, the FOB will further branch out and connect to the Hebbal railway station. One more ramp will connect to the Hebbal market," one of the officials told *DH*.

The FOB to the Hebbal railway station may run above or below the flyover, depending on the air clearance required for vehicular movement, he added. "Plans are being worked out," he added.

While the Phases 3 and 3A metro stations will be in a single building, Phase 2B passengers will have to exit the paid area to interchange, a second official said. "The FOB can't be reserved for metro passengers alone," he noted.

Entry and exit points for the proposed Silk Board Junction-Hebbal tunnel road are planned near the Phase 2B station. To accommodate this, the BMRCL has created a large span at the area, the official stated.

Despite the adjacent bus depot, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) has no plans to redevelop a full-fledged bus station at Hebbal. "Hebbal is an important stop for bus operations but not a major origin or destination point," a senior BMTC official said.

While Phases 3 and 3A are years away from opening, the airport line is slated to open by December 2027.

Civil work between Hebbal and Kempegowda International Airport (27.44 km) is about 75% complete while tracks have been laid for about six kilometres on this stretch. "We plan to complete the rest of the work this August. Systems work related to electrical and signalling will start afterwards," the official said.

This stretch will have eight stations: Hebbal, Kodigehalli, Jakkur Cross, Yelahanka, Bagalur Cross, Doddajala, Airport City and Airport Terminal. The BMRCL plans to operationalise it by July 2027.

Architectural finishing is set to begin in the coming days, starting with Bagalur Cross. In January, the contract for six stations (Hebbal, Kodigehalli, Jakkur Cross, Yelahanka, Bagalur Cross and Doddajala) was awarded to NSL Constructions Private Limited for Rs 72.21 crore.

Architectural finishing begins only after the main structure is ready and takes about six months to complete.

"We'll run trains between Hebbal and the airport. But there will be a slight operational constraint. Hebbal lacks turnout tracks, so trains can't be reversed. Trains will run on both tracks between the airport and Yelahanka. After Yelahanka, trains will run only one track until Hebbal. This will be the case until the line towards Kempapura gets ready," the official said.

Meanwhile, civil work on the 11-km KR Pura-Kempapura stretch is only about 60% complete. Work halted for nine months after a fatal accident in 2023.

Labour shortages

The official said persistent labour shortages had slowed the work.

On this stretch, overall station work progress is 45-50%. Architectural finishing has begun at HRBR Layout. The contract for eight stations (Kasturi Nagar, Horamavu, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, HBR Layout, Nagawara, Veerannapalya and Kempapura) was awarded to Bridge and Roof Co Ltd for Rs 95.16 crore in February.

Meanwhile, the Airport Terminal metro station is nearly ready, and work is in advanced stages at the Airport City station. Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) is building both stations.

City inches close to civic polls as GBA finalises electoral roll

Covers 88.95 lakh voters across 369 city wards

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) on Saturday published the final electoral roll covering a total of 369 wards.

According to the electoral roll, there are a total of 88.95 lakh voters in Bengaluru.

With the announcement of the final electoral roll, elections to the five municipal corporations in Bengaluru can be held in the next 45 days, provided the commission does not seek an extension.

A 45-day window is typically required to conduct the election process, which includes nominations and polling arrangements.

The announcement of the final voters' list, an important component of the election process, will now pave the way for the State Election Commission (SEC) to hold the civic polls, provided it does not seek an extension.

It also comes on the back of the state government having already completed its part, which included the delimitation of wards as well as finalising the reservation quota.

Addressing reporters, District Electoral Officer (DEO) and Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) M Maheshwar Rao said the final electoral roll has 2,833 more voters than the draft roll.

He said citizens can search for their names on the GBA's official website by entering details such as their name or EPIC number. He also said copies of the electoral rolls, in both Kannada and English, will be distributed among all recognised political parties.

Rao said residents of Bengaluru whose names are not in the final electoral roll can still be added to the supplementary electoral roll.

"We will create awareness about adding names to the electoral roll going forward," he said, adding that the GBA would make all efforts to come up with an error-free roll.

It is learnt that the SEC is keen on holding the elections even as the state government and the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) have sought an extension, citing the National Census and Special Intensive Revision (SIR) work, which involves the same set of officers and personnel.

A former councillor said the census work will be completed by mid-May.

"The government should have sought an extension of just one month. There was no need to seek a three-month extension," he said, adding that October is not the right time to hold elections as Bengaluru may see heavy rains then.

AT A GLANCE

Total wards: 369
Total polling stations: 8,023

Men:	Women:
45,71,169	43,22,557
Others: 1,635	Total voters: 88,95,361

Among the five corporations, Bengaluru West accounts for the highest number of voters at **27.28 lakh**, while Bengaluru East has the lowest at around **10.41 lakh.**

WARD-LEVEL HIGHLIGHTS

The largest ward is Subramanyapura (Ward 51, Bengaluru South) with **53,660 voters.**

The smallest ward is Vijnanagar (Ward 24, Bengaluru East) with **12,897 voters.**

Take alternate routes around FTI Jn during peak hours

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Rajajinagar Traffic Police have imposed traffic diversions from Saturday due to ongoing construction work at FTI Junction on Outer Ring Road.

To ensure the smooth flow of traffic, the following modifications have been implemented:

Heavy vehicles: Vehicles coming from Surana College Junction towards Krishnandanagar or Mahalakshmi Layout must turn left at Surana College, take a U-turn at SRS Junction, turn right at the CMTI signal, and then turn left at Lorry Terminal Cross.

BMTC buses: Buses travelling from CMTI Junction towards Sumanahalli or Nayandahalli will bypass the area under the FTI bridge. Instead, they will use the flyover and pass via Dr Rajkumar Samadhi.

Light vehicles: Motorists heading to Mahalakshmi Layout from the Surana College side should turn left at the FTI bridge, take a U-turn at the CMTI signal, and turn left at Lorry Terminal Cross.

The traffic police have requested the public to cooperate with these temporary measures to minimise congestion in the area.

AAP protests over LPG shortage, seeks relief for auto drivers

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) staged a protest at Freedom Park on Saturday, demanding immediate financial relief for auto drivers affected by the ongoing LPG shortage.

Ayub Khan, president of the party's auto unit, highlighted the difficulties faced by auto drivers in the city over the past month due to inadequate LPG supply as a result of the conflict in West Asia.

"Auto drivers are unable to earn a livelihood and support their families, yet the government is turning a blind eye," he said, demanding that the state government provide immediate relief of Rs 15,000 to each affected driver. He added that while social workers and film personalities had stepped in to offer assistance, official intervention remained absent.

Aam Aadmi Party members stage a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Saturday. PHOTO: AAM AADMI PARTY

AAP working president Sitaram Gundappa accused the government of inaction despite repeated appeals. He alleged that black marketing of LPG was going unchecked and criticised the authorities for failing to take strict action. "Due to the irresponsible behaviour of the government, drivers are out protesting on the streets. If this continues, they will lose the next elections, becoming the target of the anger of lakhs of auto drivers," he added.

Multiple auto drivers' associations are also planning similar protests in the coming days. "We're planning to bring two unions together to stage a large protest soon. Auto drivers across the state are being treated unfairly. We want the government to provide each impacted driver with a monthly relief package of Rs 15,000 till the LPG crisis subsides," said C Sampath, general secretary of the Adarsha Auto Drivers Union.

Six towing vehicles deployed to clear illegal parking in South Corpn

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru South City Corporation on Saturday deployed six towing vehicles to clear illegally parked and abandoned vehicles within its jurisdiction.

Corporation Commissioner K N Ramesh said all six vehicles will start hitting the roads from Monday. Officials said the towing vehicle operators will carry point-of-sale machines to collect fines digitally. The revenue will be shared between the traffic police and the corporation.

Woman assaulted by father-son duo over alleged affair

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 37-year-old woman was allegedly assaulted by a father and son in Vyalikaval on Friday night after she reportedly spoke about an alleged illicit relationship.

Police said the complainant, Devika, who works at a printing press, alleged that at around 10 pm, her neighbours Nagaraj, a real estate broker, and his son Lokesh dragged and assaulted her in front of her family members near her residence.

Devika told police that she had not voluntarily disclosed anything about the alleged relationship involving Lokesh, who is married and has a child, but had responded only when questioned by Lokesh's wife. Following this, the accused allegedly confronted and attacked her.

Based on her complaint, Vyalikaval police have registered a case and issued notices to the accused for further investigation. Meanwhile, the accused have also filed a counter-complaint alleging that Devika threatened to damage their reputation and abused members of their family.

Gang of six robs and assaults three students

BENGALURU, DHNS: A gang of six unidentified persons barged into a house in Konanakunte and assaulted three students from Kerala, robbing them of valuables on Friday night.

According to police, the victims, who are pursuing hotel management at a private college, were inside their rented house at around 11 pm when the incident occurred. Despite the door being locked, the accused allegedly entered through the rear side.

The gang attacked the students with lethal weapons, threatened them, and fled with three mobile phones and around Rs 10,000 in cash. Two of the students sustained serious injuries. Police said the accused were speaking in Tamil. A case has been registered at Konanakunte police station, and further investigation is on.

Plans afoot for centralised waste management portal

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) held a meeting with stakeholders on Saturday for the effective implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026. Members of resident welfare associations (RWAs), non-governmental organisations, hotel associations, and BSWML officials and staff took part in the workshop.

Segregating waste continues to test Bengaluru's civic discipline. DH FILE PHOTO

Addressing the workshop, BSWML Chief Executive Officer Karee Gowda announced plans to launch a centralised online portal to ensure transparency and strengthen monitoring in waste management. He also appealed to citizens not to dump waste along roadsides or in vacant spaces, and instead hand it over to door-to-door auto-tippers.

Similar meetings, he said, will be held across five city corporations with RWAs to provide guidance on managing the large volumes of waste generated in major apartment complexes.

BSWML Chief Operating Officer Ramamani said the new Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, have been introduced by revising the 2016 rules to make waste management more efficient, scientific and effective. Several key changes have been incorporated to strengthen the system, she said, adding that four-way segregation is now mandatory.

This includes wet waste (biodegradable), dry waste (recyclable), sanitary waste (waste from personal hygiene products), and special care waste (waste requiring special handling during disposal). She urged citizens to strictly follow four-way segregation, avoid littering, and cooperate fully in making the city clean, green and sustainable.

Administration of HPV vaccine crosses 1.5-lakh mark

BENGALURU, DHNS: The government announced on Saturday that the administration of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine has surpassed 1,50,000 doses for girls under the age of 14 in Bengaluru.

Kalaburgi district has achieved the highest vaccination rate, reaching 68.3% of the targeted population, followed by Yadgir at 37.7% and Koppal at 36.9%. Additionally, about 21 districts have successfully vaccinated over 30% of their targeted populations.

In contrast, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) limits have the lowest vaccination rate, with only 6% of the targeted population vaccinated.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Felicitation and book launch: Felicitation of C G Lakshmipathi and launch of the book 'Cast Politics'; Tumbadi Ramaiah, Pradeep Ramavath G, Agrahara Krishnamurthy, Kotiganahalli Ramaiah, Jogan Shankar, and Mavalli Shankar to be present; Government Employees' Association Hall, Cubbon Park; 10.30 am

Book launch: Launch of Vinayaka Bhat Taddalase's 'Radhakrishna Adiga Idli Coffee Parampare Payana; Devadas, Vishweshwar Bhat, G Parameshwara, Tejasvi Surya, and Uday B Garudachar to be present; R V Teachers' College Hall, Jayanagar; 10.30 am

Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations: Inauguration by Krishna Byre Gowda; Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, Prasad Abbayya, Nagalakshmi Chaudhary, and S R Vishwanath to be present; Dr B R Ambedkar Community Hall, Jakkur; 11 am

Discussion on Women's Reservation Bill: 'Samsada Dhwani' on challenges and solutions; R Ashoka, Tejasvi Surya, P C Mohan, C Manjula, and Malavika Avinash to be present; R V Dental College, J P Nagar; 11.15 am

CULTURAL

88th Sri Ramanavami Music Festival: Vocal concert by M K Nagaraj Rao and team at 10.30 am; Vocal by Surya G and team at 5 pm; Carnatic classical concert and Harikatha by Vishaka Hari at 6.30 pm; Fort High School Grounds, Chamarajpet.

Kannada Sahitya Sangeeta Sambhrama: Inauguration by Ham Pa Nagarajaiah; Award presentation by Jayashree Aravind; Gandhi Bhavan, Kumara Krupa Road; 11 am

Book launch and felicitation: Launch of K G Raghavan's 'Echoes from Ramayana' and felicitation of Shatavadhani R Ganesh; Krishna S Dixit, Padma Subrahmanyam, and Chiranjiv Singh to be present; Khincha Hall, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Race Course Road; 3 pm

Drama performances: Performance of 'Muddannana Pramochana Prasanga' at 5 pm; 'Pukkate Salahe' at 7 pm; Directed by B Ashok; Kalagrama, Mallathahalli.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	36.4°C
Minimum	23.9°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	26%
Sunset (April 19)	6:33 pm
Sunrise (April 20)	6:06 am
Moonrise	4:27 am
Moonset	7:31 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

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Bengaluru Sunday, April 19, 2026 Pages 32 Vol 79 No 108 ₹8

DH on Sunday

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DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Oppn to file fresh impeachment notice against CEC

P8

Big Picture

Unequal heat

Ahead of Earth Day, we take a deep dive into how the eco conversation has moved to climate justice, especially in light of the ongoing conflicts and their impact on the environment

Pullout P1

Unseen: Devadasi women pushed to the margins

Four decades after the ban, Devadasi women and their children remain exploited and stigmatised, as policy gaps block access to rehabilitation and support

ANITHA PAILOOR
BAGALKOT/VIJAYANAGARA/
BALLARI/KOPPAL, DHNS

Maridevi, a 25-year-old Devadasi from Tuppakkanahalli in Vijayanagara district, along with her children. DH PHOTO/ANITHA PAILOOR

Maridevi was in Class 9 when her mother, Durgamma, fell ill. Before she could come to terms with the situation, she was trapped in the Devadasi system, like her mother.

Under pressure from elders in her village, Tuppakkanahalli in Vijayanagara district, she was dedicated to the deity within a month, in the name of continuing the Devadasi legacy.

The series of events nine years ago forced Maridevi to discontinue her education, leaving her in a situation that she has not been able to escape since.

Though banned in Karnataka in 1984, the regressive Devadasi practice persists despite years of intervention, with women like Maridevi compelled to remain in the system due to cultural, economic, social and familial pressures.

In this system, girls are dedicated to a deity at a young age. In Karnataka, historical records trace the origins of the tradition to the 8th century, when it was associated with temple service.

The practice, which degrades women through sexual exploitation, has been recorded in 15 districts in the state.

The Devadasi re-survey, conducted following the Karnataka Devadasi (Prevention, Prohibition, Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2025, came as a ray of hope.

With time, even this optimism seems to have slipped away for Maridevi and other Devadasi women born after the system was banned. The culprits: Unscientific enumeration processes, unclear guidelines and bureaucratic apathy.

At the heart of this oppressive system is hypocrisy. As per custom, a Devadasi woman, considered a 'servant of God', cannot marry. Yet, men, often married, are allowed to start relationships with Devadasis without bearing any responsibility.

Such arrangements can remain secret for fear of marital discord in the man's family.

INSIGHT

For the Devadasi, it is, in effect, sexual exploitation and results in an unequal burden, including raising children as a single parent. Over the years, this arrangement has become a defining and troubling feature of the practice.

Take the case of Maridevi. Her partner, a married man from the Nayaka community in a neighbouring village, visited on his own terms. She has two daughters with him, aged six and three, the younger of whom is visually impaired. He stopped visiting after learning of the child's condition. Maridevi believes that her caste may also have been a factor. She belongs to the Madiga community, among the most marginalised within the Scheduled Castes.

According to the state government, 90% of Devadasis are from the Scheduled Castes.

Maridevi, now 25, believed that the Devadasi re-survey would be of some help. But she was in for a big shock. "When I approached officials with the required documents to enrol, they threatened that I would be in jail for practising a system banned long ago," she says.

▸ Devadasi system, Page 2

The $1.8 billion bet on the IPL ecosystem

Blackstone's RCB deal reflects how the IPL has evolved into a strategic asset beyond sport

VENKAT ANANTH

Blackstone, a private investment management company, manages $1.3 trillion in assets. It has owned hospitals, logistics networks, real estate portfolios and energy companies across six continents.

Until last month, it had never owned a cricket team. That changed when it joined the consortium, alongside the Aditya Birla Group, The Times Group and David Blitzer's Bolt Ventures, to buy the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) for $1.78 billion (approximately Rs 16,600 crore).

The timing is rather pointed. RCB won their first Indian Premier League (IPL) title in June 2025, after seventeen years of trying. They are currently in the top four of the ongoing season. Diageo, which has owned the franchise since its takeover of United Spirits Limited, decided that a cricket team sat outside its core alcobev business and put it up for sale.

When the RCB process opened, some of the world's largest investment firms were in the room.

RCB's Virat Kohli celebrates after winning an IPL match in Bengaluru. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

The **SUNDAY STORY**

The same day, the Rajasthan Royals were sold for $1.63 billion. EQT, KKR, Premji Invest and TPG had all been linked to one or both processes. Two franchises, a waiting room full of capital that usually goes elsewhere. Something has changed.

The financial logic behind an IPL franchise starts with a guarantee.

The BCCI diverts all broadcast and league-level sponsorship revenue into a central pool from where it distributes a guaranteed equal share to all franchises, regardless of where they finish. In sports business terms, it is what they call a "closed league", minus relegation. In most other sports, ownership is a bet on performance. In the IPL, the floor is fixed.

The track record has reinforced that appeal. CVC Capital Partners, a European private equity firm, bought the Gujarat Titans in 2021 for $670 million. Four years later, it sold a majority stake to the Gujarat-headquartered Torrent Group at a reported return exceeding 350%, retaining a 33% holding.

RedBird Capital Partners, an American investment firm, paid $37.5 million for a 15% stake in the Rajasthan Royals (RR) that same year, valuing the franchise at $250 million.

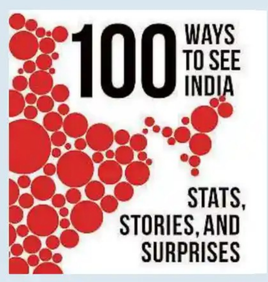
▸ IPL ownership, Page 2

Pursuits
Pullout P6

Like fur in sunlight

Shedding season is a chore for pet parents, but there's a bright side

Books
Pullout P2



India through numbers

This is a lively attempt to build data confidence, in an era overflowing with information but starving for insights

Arts
Pullout P5

Oriental gaze

Read a fascinating story of how the name of a Hindu goddess became a Parisian sensation

COME. TOUR. MEET. APRIL 26, SUNDAY
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Join us at PES University's Open House to meet our esteemed faculty, get all your queries answered, explore our state-of-the-art infrastructure, and discover why we are a top choice for your academic journey.

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BBA (Hospitality & Event Management)
BBA (Sports Management)

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B.Com (Hons) ACCA
B.Com (Hons) CMA
B.Com (Hons) CA
B.Com (Hons) CFA

ECONOMICS
B.Sc. (Hons) Economics

PSYCHOLOGY
B.Sc. (Hons) Psychology
M.Sc. Psychology

ARTS
B.A. (Hons) Performing Arts

LAW
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BA-LLB (Hons)
LLB (Hons)
LLM

DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE
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M.Des
B.Arch

JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION
B.Sc. (Hons) Journalism & Mass Communication

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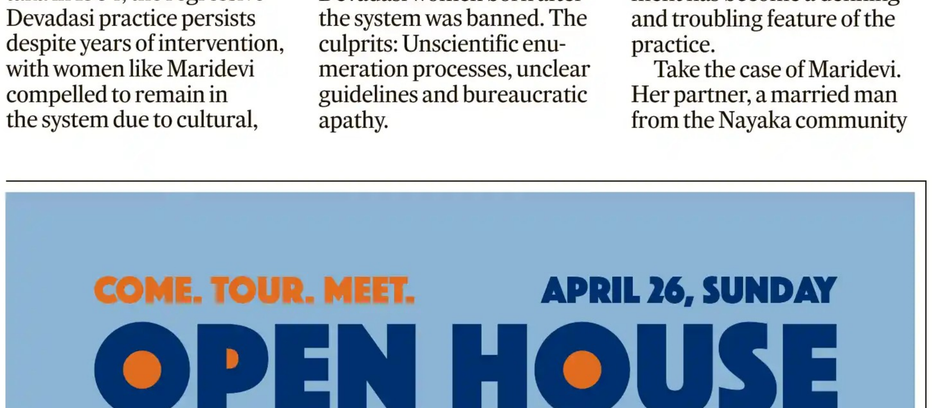
BCA
MCA



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2 kids die in Raichur arch collapse

Two children died on Saturday after a portion of an arch allegedly collapsed on them in Raichur district.

P3A

Cabinet extends rural roads scheme

The Centre on Saturday decided to extend the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III).

P6

Sunrisers edge Super Kings

Eshan Malinga's 3/29 and a half-century by Abhishek Sharma help SRH down CSK.

P12

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09562 916 916 | On Akshaya Tritiya Day, All our showrooms will be open from 7:30 am.

A practice that persists

- The **Devadasi practice was banned** in Karnataka through the Karnataka Devadasis (Prohibition of Dedication) Act, 1982, which came into force in 1984
- In **1993–94,** a survey identified **22,873 Devadasi women** in the state. Another survey in **2007-08** identified **46,660 Devadasi** women
- Despite the ban, the **Devadasi practice continues** in parts of the state
- In August 2025, the government cleared The **Karnataka Devadasi** (Prevention, Prohibition, Relief and Rehabilitation) **Bill 2025**
- In 2025, the state government conducted the **third survey** and the report was released in February
- The report suggests Devadasi numbers have halved in **15 years, raising questions**

From custom to circumstance

Devadasi system, from Page 1

As Maridevi was initiated into the system after the previous survey in 2008, she will be eligible for government support only if she is included in the current enumeration.

The Devadasi pension of Rs 2,000 per month that her ailing mother receives is the sole source of income for the family. With three dependents at home, Maridevi is unable to go out for work.

Without a Devadasi certificate, she has not been able to access the Bhagyalakshmi Bond for her children, a state government savings scheme for girl children, as the application requires either the certificate or the father's name. As per the regressive practice, Devadasi children are not allowed to mention their father's name.

With support from a civil society organisation, her application was eventually accepted by officials. But again, she was in for some disappointment. "They say I won't be included in the list because I was born after 1984," she says.

Sakhi, an organisation working with Devadasi women in Vijayanagara district, has details of more than 500 women who are unsure of their survey status. Of them, at least 26 are below 30 years of age.

Enumeration

The Devadasi enumeration report released in February indicates that currently there are 23,395 former Devadasis in the state. This number was at 46,660 in the previous survey. More than 18,000 Devadasis identified in the previous enumeration have died since, as per the report. Bagalkot has the highest number of former Devadasis at 4,189 and Vijayanagara has the second highest number at 3,876.

Koppal Deputy Commissioner Dr Suresh B Itnal says that they have recommended all those aged above 42 to be included in the list. However, with regard to those below the age group, the DC says they have sought clarification from the director of the Women and Child Development Department. "We will decide as per the clarification," he says.

Mahesh Babu N, director of the Women and Child Development Department, says that it is up to the district survey committees to recommend the names, and the department would consider only those approved by the tahsildar and the DC.

"We cannot include younger Devadasis. After the abolition in 1984, the state government has taken proactive measures towards their rehabilitation. Despite this, if young girls have become Devadasis, isn't it a mockery of the system?" he says.

As two administrative stakeholders point fingers at each other and decision-making is delayed, there is a question mark on the future of young Devadasis.

It has been two months since the release of the report, which said that the administration is verifying 6,222 applications. Mahesh Babu said that verification has been completed in seven districts, with around 1,000 applications accepted. He appealed to the remaining districts to dispose of the applications as early as possible.

Enumeration enables access to government programmes and schemes.

The promise

The recent Bill proposes the rehabilitation of three generations of Devadasi families, which is a significant reform.

"This is key to eradicating the practice. The gains we hope to achieve through the Bill in terms of rights, dignity and rehabilitation will be lost if the state fails to conduct a proper survey and recognise women across age groups," says R V Chandrashekar of the National Law School of India University, coordinator of the Bill drafting committee and a member of the state survey committee.

But in characteristic government fashion, he says that the department has not held a single meeting to discuss the execution of the survey.

Some of the provisions in the Bill include providing inheritance rights to children born to a Devadasi woman from both parents, with a provision for paternity to be challenged through biochemical evidence.

DH interacted with more than 10 members of taluk-, district- and state-level survey committees, constituted of Devadasis, civil society organisations and government officers. According to them, there are four major lapses in the survey: one, they say that there was inadequate awareness about the survey and a short time window; two, the guidelines were not clear, with contradictory statements on age criteria; three, women below 40 were reportedly turned away in some places; and four, they say the process required multiple documents, forcing applicants to approach at least three government offices.

With more than 90% of Devadasi women lacking formal education, navigating these procedures was difficult.

The outcome

Many women without organisational support could not apply. In Hirekeriyaginahalli, Ballari district, 18 women submitted documents, but remain unsure if their applications have been accepted.

In one district, around 500 Devadasi women, who were included in the previous survey, did not participate due to migration, ill health and other reasons.

M Bhagyalakshmi, the founder of Sakhi, blames these lapses on a lack of intent.

"The government does not appear to have conducted the survey with the aim of ending the system, but rather to reduce the official figures," she says. She points to the state budget allocation for Devadasi rehabilitation. "The government has allocated Rs 5 crore for Devadasis in the entire state this year. How can the rehabilitation process begin with this amount," she asks.

Padma Shri awardee and former Devadasi Sitavva Jodatti, who has been working for the empowerment of Devadasis in Belagavi, says a survey can be effective only if it is conducted in collaboration with civil society organisations and Devadasi forums.

Rehabilitation

Data shows that the rehabilitation process for Devadasi women identified in previous surveys has been a big letdown. Around 66% Devadasis have not received a house under the rehabilitation schemes. The annual income of 97.91% Devadasi women is below Rs 50,000. Only 0.43% of children for three generations are graduates.

The need for long-term support for Devadasi families is clear in Gayathri's case. The granddaughter of a Devadasi, she dropped out of school after Class 5 and began working as an agricultural labourer to support her family in Nagenahalli near Hosapete.

She later fell in love with a boy from another caste and the two planned to marry. However, village elders intervened and separated them, with some insisting that she be initiated into the Devadasi system. Her family subsequently dedicated her. "I was 17 or 18 then, and I was not even given a chance to speak," she says. Now 27, she is the mother of two children.

She hopes the survey and the resulting support will help improve her children's future.

Kudligi MLA Dr N T Srinivas says the Devadasi system is no longer rooted in custom alone and has instead emerged from circumstance.

"We are trying to secure more funds from different departments and under various schemes for Devadasi rehabilitation, as the current allocation may not be sufficient," he says. He adds that the technical hurdle in considering Devadasis born after 1984 also needs to be addressed.

"I wouldn't want women in my constituency to seek help saying their body and soul have been scarred by society and family," he says.

Beyond tradition, parents still dedicate daughters for three key reasons: if they are the only child, in the absence of a male heir, or if the girl is physically or mentally ill.

Take the case of Ankita from Vadrahalli in Vijayanagara district. The 23-year-old's life was upended after her brother died in an accident three years ago. With no male heir and concerns about their future, her parents, who had been seeking a groom, decided to dedicate her to the deity.

"We cannot get her married, as we need someone to look after us in our old age. She is like our son now," says her father.

The initiation rituals were held at Huligemma Temple in Koppal district during the day, he says. "We know the practice is banned. Police were present at the temple, but no one questioned us," he says.

Ankita resisted until her parents threatened to end their lives. Now, under the Devadasi system, she cannot marry.

These individual cases reflect wider concerns flagged by the Vimukta Devadasi Women and Children Forum, Karnataka, which has pointed to gaps in the state's recent enumeration.

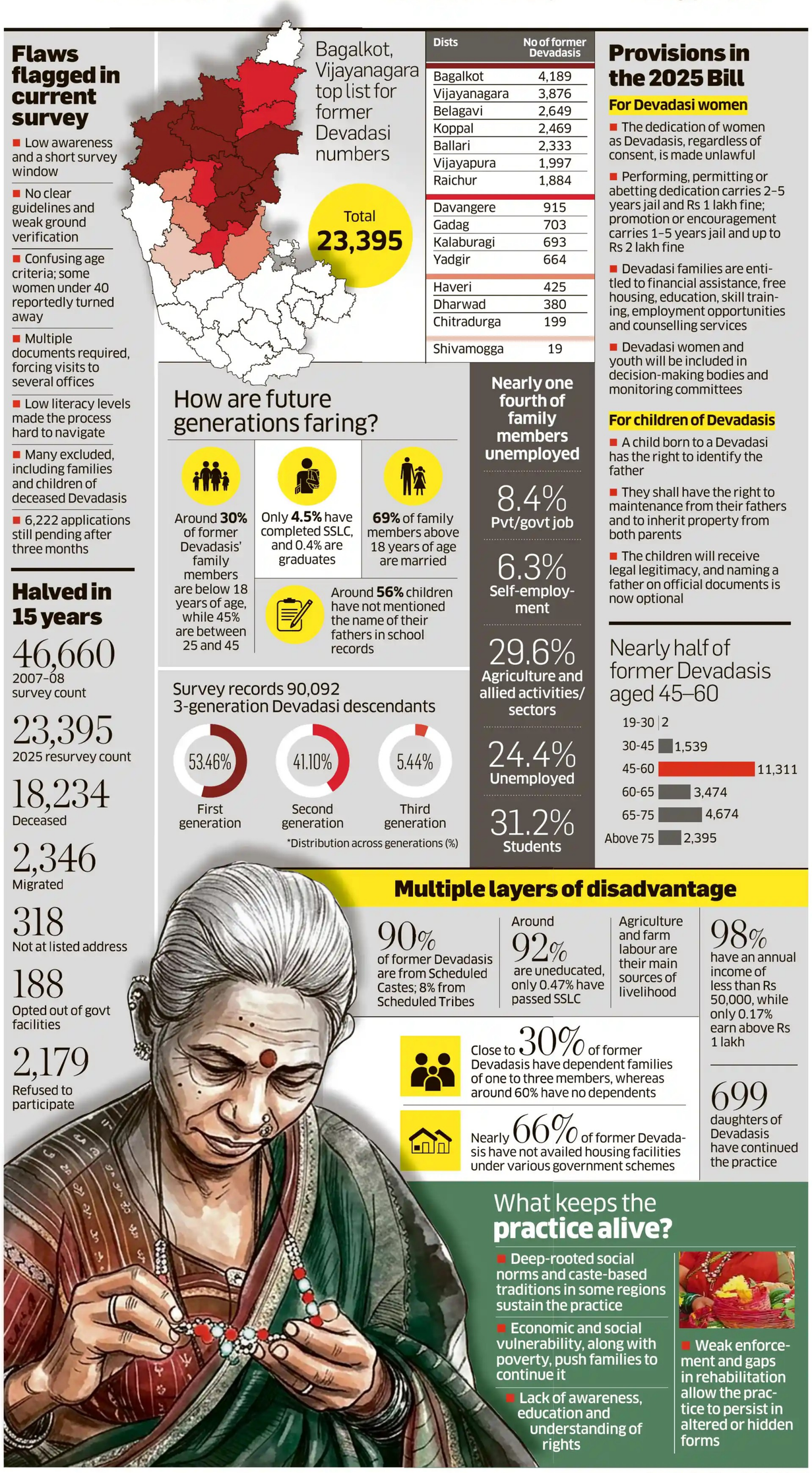
The forum states the survey is incomplete, excludes many eligible women, and lacks proper ground verification.

Chandalinga Kalalabandi, a member of the state survey committee and a representative of a Devadasi women's forum, says it is 'unbelievable' that the number of Devadasi families across three generations in the state is below one lakh. "As promised, the children of deceased Devadasis, who lack any kind of support system, should also be covered in the survey," he says, estimating that there are about three lakh Devadasi children in Karnataka.

Without a support system, Devadasi children find it difficult to continue their education or seek better livelihoods, as they are caught in a cycle of stigma and poverty.

"In 2024-25, the state government had announced housing and a special package for all Devadasi women in the state, and it has not been implemented till now," he rues.

Even as policies promise reform and surveys claim progress, for women like Maridevi, the Devadasi system remains not a relic of the past, but a living reality sustained by gaps in intent, accountability and support.


Flaws flagged in current survey
Low awareness and a short survey window
No clear guidelines and weak ground verification
Confusing age criteria; some women under 40 reportedly turned away
Multiple documents required, forcing visits to several offices
Low literacy levels made the process hard to navigate
Many excluded, including families and children of deceased Devadasis
6,222 applications still pending after three months
Halved in 15 years
46,660
2007-08 survey count
23,395
2025 resurvey count
18,234
Deceased
2,346
Migrated
318
Not at listed address
188
Opted out of govt facilities
2,179
Refused to participate
Bagalkot, Vijayanagara top list for former Devadasi numbers
Total 23,395
Dists | No of former Devadasis
Bagalkot 4,189
Vijayanagara 3,876
Belagavi 2,649
Koppal 2,469
Ballari 2,333
Vijayapura 1,997
Raichur 1,884
Davangere 915
Gadag 703
Kalaburagi 693
Yadgir 664
Haveri 425
Dharwad 380
Chitradurga 199
Shivamogga 19
How are future generations faring?
Around 30% of former Devadasis' family members are below 18 years of age, while 45% are between 25 and 45
Only 4.5% have completed SSLC, and 0.4% are graduates
69% of family members above 18 years of age are married
Around 56% children have not mentioned the name of their fathers in school records
Survey records 90,092 3-generation Devadasi descendants
53.46% First generation
41.10% Second generation
5.44% Third generation
*Distribution across generations (%)
Nearly one fourth of family members unemployed
8.4% Pvt/govt job
6.3% Self-employment
29.6% Agriculture and allied activities/ sectors
24.4% Unemployed
31.2% Students
Provisions in the 2025 Bill
For Devadasi women
The dedication of women as Devadasis, regardless of consent, is made unlawful
Performing, permitting or abetting dedication carries 2–5 years jail and Rs 1 lakh fine; promotion or encouragement carries 1–5 years jail and up to Rs 2 lakh fine
Devadasi families are entitled to financial assistance, free housing, education, skill training, employment opportunities and counselling services
Devadasi women and youth will be included in decision-making bodies and monitoring committees
For children of Devadasis
A child born to a Devadasi has the right to identify the father
They shall have the right to maintenance from their fathers and to inherit property from both parents
The children will receive legal legitimacy, and naming a father on official documents is now optional
Nearly half of former Devadasis aged 45–60
19-30 2
30-45 1,539
45-60 11,311
60-65 3,474
65-75 4,674
Above 75 2,395
Multiple layers of disadvantage
90% of former Devadasis are from Scheduled Castes; 8% from Scheduled Tribes
Around 92% are uneducated, only 0.47% have passed SSLC
Agriculture and farm labour are their main sources of livelihood
98% have an annual income of less than Rs 50,000, while only 0.17% earn above Rs 1 lakh
Close to 30% of former Devadasis have dependent families of one to three members, whereas around 60% have no dependents
Nearly 66% of former Devadasis have not availed housing facilities under various government schemes
699 daughters of Devadasis have continued the practice
What keeps the practice alive?
Deep-rooted social norms and caste-based traditions in some regions sustain the practice
Economic and social vulnerability, along with poverty, push families to continue it
Lack of awareness, education and understanding of rights
Weak enforcement and gaps in rehabilitation allow the practice to persist in altered or hidden forms

Source: Report on resurvey of former Devadasis in 15 districts of Karnataka 2025, draft of The Karnataka Devadasi (Prevention, Prohibition, Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill 2025, Media reports

Compiled by Divyashri Mudakavi
DH Graphics: RAMU MASTAIAH

Education, livelihoods drive change

ANITHA PAILOOR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Devadasi families who managed to escape the system credit forums and civil society organisations for years of concerted efforts against the social evil.

In Vijayanagara district, Sakhi has provided comprehensive support — covering housing, health, education and livelihoods — to over 2,000 Devadasi families. The support network has now been extended to other districts as well, helping Sakhi reach 5,000 more Devadasi families.

"We realised early on the need for sustained support, not just for the mothers but also for their children," says M Bhagyalakshmi, adding that each family has been supported for eight to 16 years. "With political will and effective use of resources, complete rehabilitation is possible within five years," she says.

Support from Sakhi enabled Kamakshi, born into a Devadasi family in Nagenahalli near Hosapete, to clear the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) and secure eligibility for PhD studies at the University of Sussex in England last year.

Scores of individuals and organisations are doing their bit for Devadasi families. There is Sneha, an organisation based in Kudligi. Since 2023, Sneha has been providing economic support for health-related vocational courses to girls from Devadasi families. B L Patil, who runs a residential school for children of Devadasis in Athani through Vimochana Devadasi Punarvasati Sangha, says many of these children have gone on to pursue higher education and achieve success in life.

In Davangere, T V Renukamma, a former Devadasi, through Karnataka Rajya Devadasi Mahileyara Vimochana Sangha, is ensuring self-reliance among many families and preventing initiation into the practice through activism, education and livelihood support. "Empowerment and leadership training for members of Devadasi families has helped us find our voice and advocate for ourselves," says Manjula Malgi, a member of the Vimukta Devadasi Women and Children Forum, Karnataka. "We have developed effective models for the government to learn from. It's time all Devadasi families are given an opportunity to come out of the trap," says Bhagyalakshmi.

IPL ownership, from Page 1

The new wave of institutional capital will lift Indian cricket

That stake, at the time of RR's March 2026 sale, multiplied at least 6.5 times to roughly $244.5 million.

These are the numbers that drew Blackstone and the rest into the process. Underpinning all of it is the 2022 broadcast deal, in which the IPL sold media rights for the 2023-2027 cycle for $6.2 billion (Rs 48,390 crore), more than double the previous deal. That single transaction repriced every franchise in the league. The eight original franchises are all profitable. The two newer entrants are working towards that position.

The rooms that matter

The returns explain the interest. However, they do not fully explain the appetite.

There is a second motivation, less visible in any financial presentation, that matters to certain buyers. In India, there are very few rooms that matter. Rooms where business decisions of consequence get made, where relationships between capital and government are built, and where the people who run the country's largest institutions sit together. Access to those rooms is not bought directly. It comes through a demonstrated presence in places that India's governing and business classes take seriously.

The IPL is one of those places. Ownership puts an investor at a table that money alone can't buy. For foreign capital with broader India ambitions, whether in technology, financial services or consumer businesses, a franchise is a way into conversations that would otherwise take years to cultivate. The derivative of that access, felt in deals that have nothing to do with cricket, does not show up in a financial model. It is, nonetheless, real.

David Blitzer's portfolio spans the NFL, NBA, the English Premier League and Major League Baseball. A sudden passion for T20 cricket does not explain his presence in the RCB consortium. For investors like this, an IPL stake is also a key to securing rooms in Mumbai, New Delhi (and indeed Bengaluru) that global capital has historically found difficult to enter.

This is not a cynical point. Every serious market has institutions that carry social capital alongside commercial weight. The IPL has earned that status in nearly two decades, which is the more remarkable fact.

What the money will demand

While the case for buying is legible, what comes after is less certain.

The 2022 broadcast rights deal, which underpins current franchise valuations, was, in a specific sense, unrepeatable. It was driven by a direct bidding war between Disney Star and Viacom18.

The two companies have since merged into JioStar, unifying all IPL rights under a single entity. The competitive dynamic that tripled the rights value in one auction no longer exists. Media Partners Asia, a Singapore-based consultancy, projects the 2028-2032 cycle will stay flat at $5.4 billion, with the per match value falling 13% as the league expands its match count. Franchise owners buying at $1.6-1.8 billion today, are pricing that the media rights table, on current projections, cannot deliver alone.

The real-money gaming ban has compounded the problem. Fantasy platforms like Dream11 and My11Circle were the single largest advertising category in IPL broadcasts. No replacement category has emerged at the same scale.

The gap is most visible in merchandise. When RCB jerseys sell out at a Puma outlet in Bengaluru, that is not a merchandise business doing well. It is a supply problem. The NFL earns billions of dollars annually from licensed products. The IPL, with 1.4 billion people in its domestic market and a large diaspora concentrated in wealthy cities abroad, generates a fraction of what those numbers imply.

The ceiling is not entirely a market problem. Indian franchise owners have simply not committed the investment, in teams, in logistics, and licensing to raise it.

Foreign capital from markets where franchise businesses are run as proper consumer operations has closed gaps like this before. RedBird brought that experience to RR. Blackstone has portfolio depth across consumer and real estate that few investors can match. Whether any of it translates to the particular conditions of the Indian market will take seasons, not quarters, to establish.

The harder question involves the BCCI itself. The board has run the IPL with authority and limited external accountability, and the league has grown well under these conditions. Institutional investors operate on different terms. They manage money on behalf of pension friends and university endowments that require transparent reporting. They will want to know how revenue is divided as new streams emerge, and what recourse exists when league-level decisions affect franchise value. That is a different kind of pressure on the BCCI that it has faced from franchise owners before.

Blackstone's entry and the wave of institutional capital that preceded it, is good for Indian cricket. A league that attracts serious global investors regarded as a viable long-term asset is a more durable league. The networks and operational experience these investors bring are things Indian franchise ownership has not consistently provided.

The question is not whether this capital belongs here. It does. The question is whether the IPL, as an institution, is ready for owners who will eventually want their money back, and will keep asking until they understand exactly how that happens.

(Venkat Ananth is the founder and writer of The State of Play, a subscription-led publication on the business of Indian sport.)

ADVERTORIAL

NARAYANA SCHOOLS DOMINATE CBSE CLASS X 2026

498/500 — AHAAN SAJEEVAN, H.No. 18137633, BANNERGHATTA CAMPUS

498/500 — B SANJANA REDDY, H.No. 18115692, SARASWATI BHAVAN CAMPUS, GORAVIGERE

497/500 — BHUVI V SUTAR, H.No. 18118788, SAHAKARA NAGAR CAMPUS

497/500 — P NITHISH RAAJ, H.No. 18141188, MARATHAHALLI CAMPUS

497/500 — SHAURYA MANOJ W, H.No. 18118877, SAHAKARA NAGAR CAMPUS

Narayana Schools have once again delivered outstanding results in the CBSE Class 10 Board Examinations 2026, with students across Bengaluru achieving near-perfect scores and reinforcing a consistent record of academic excellence.

Leading the cohort are **Ahaan Sajeevan (498/500) and Sanjana Reddy (498/500), followed by Bhuvi Veerendra Sutar, P. Nithish Raaj, and Shaurya Manoj Wattamwar (497/500 each)**. These results are a strong reflection of Narayana's structured and result-oriented academic system.

Behind these results is an integrated learning approach that combines **early foundation building, continuous assessments, and personalised mentorship**. Students are trained not just to prepare, but to improve consistently through disciplined practise and clear conceptual understanding.

> *"My result feels surreal, but it's built on consistent effort and Narayana's system. The eTechno programme's rigorous tests, and detailed feedback turned weaknesses into strengths. Teacher mentorship and my parents' support kept me confident throughout."*- Ahaan Sajeevan.

Sharing insights from their preparation journeys, students highlighted the impact of Narayana's academic framework.

Sanjana Reddy pointed to the role of Daily Practice Tests, revision cycles, and a disciplined environment in improving accuracy and maintaining consistency.

Bhuvi Veerendra Sutar credited structured mentorship, regular assessments, and detailed error analysis for sharpening her focus and enabling steady improvement.

Nithish Raaj emphasised that consistent practice, strong foundational learning, and continuous teacher support helped him stay disciplined and confident.

Shaurya Manoj Wattamwar noted that Narayana's focus on conceptual clarity and its "Mistake to Mastery" approach helped her move beyond memorisation and build confidence.

Ahaan Sajeevan highlighted how rigorous testing, detailed feedback, and mentorship helped transform weaknesses into strengths.

This consistent performance underscores the strength of Narayana's system-where every **test becomes feedback, every mistake becomes learning, and every student progresses with clarity and confidence.**

Congratulating the students, Dr. Sindhura Narayana, Director of Narayana Educational Institutions, said:

"These exceptional results reflect not just the hard work of our students, but also the strength of our academic system. We are proud to nurture young minds who are not only exam-ready but future-ready too."

Scan to know more

NARAYANA SCHOOLS

B'ghatta zoo gets 4 cheetahs from South Africa

BENGALURU, DHNS: Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre welcomed four cheetahs brought from South Africa for the Bannerghatta Zoo at Kempegowda International Airport at midnight.

After attending an event in Kalaburagi and arriving in Bengaluru via Hyderabad around midnight, the Forest Minister directly went to the cargo terminal of the airport, where he received these foreign guests.

He instructed officials and veterinary officers to ensure that the cheetahs do not face any difficulty or suffer ill health due to the change in surroundings and climate. He said the wild animals should be kept in quarantine, given the prescribed diet for 30 days, examined for any possible infections, and transported safely to Bannerghatta.

At one time, cheetahs, locally known as Sivangi, were found in the forests of Karnataka. However, they have now disappeared from the state's forests. Therefore, people should at least have an opportunity to see them in zoos. With this in mind, he instructed Karnataka Zoo Authority member-secretary Sunil Panwar to make their safety a top priority.

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M'rashtra RTO official gets threat call from 'Bishnoi gang' while on B'luru visit; FIR registered

BENGALURU, DHNS: Soladevanahalli police have registered an FIR after a Maharashtra RTO official received a threat call from a person claiming to be associated with the 'Bishnoi gang', allegedly warning him to stop action linked to disputes over auto-rickshaw permit allocations.

According to police, the complainant, Prasad Shivadas Nalavade, posted at the Mira-Bhayandar sub-regional transport office in Thane, had been tasked with verifying permits issued over the past decade. On April 12, while attending a road safety event in Bengaluru, Nalavade received a call from an unidentified number. The caller accused him of harassing auto drivers and withholding files related to agents and claimed the issue had reached the Delhi office. The caller warned him to enhance his security, stating that details of his family had been collected.

A senior police officer told *DH* that the caller spoke in Hindi. A zero FIR was registered at Kashigaon station in Maharashtra and later transferred to Soladevanahalli station.

HIDDEN THREAT

Sedentary lifestyles fuel rise in fatty liver among youngsters

Poor sleep, stress and insulin resistance are emerging as key triggers

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

One of the most common and growing side effects of a sedentary lifestyle is Metabolic Dysfunction-Associated Steatotic Liver Disease (MASLD), the occurrence of which has been rising significantly among youngsters, doctors in the city pointed out, even more than average alcohol-related liver issues.

Speaking to *DH*, Dr Harshavardhan Rao B, HOD and Consultant, Department of Gastroenterology at a private hospital, said, "After the Covid era, there has been an increase in the number of MASLD patients. As sedentary lifestyles and working from home (WFH) increased, it has contributed significantly to the numbers."

Pointing to gender differences in MASLD, the doctor said that though there is no scientific evidence, more

men are seen seeking treatment, while women often arrive very late, by which time the disease would have progressed to a later stage.

Dr Adarsh C K, HOD and Senior Consultant, Medical Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Advanced Endoscopy, noted that people of normal weight can also develop fatty liver. "People of normal weight can develop fatty liver, as obesity and alcohol are only two of the reasons. Apart from that, diabetes, hypertension, thyroid issues, cholesterol, and sometimes increased visceral fat despite the absence of abdominal fat can also be causes. This is quite dangerous."

Regarding the long-term impact of fatty liver, Dr Akhil Deshmukh, Consultant, Hepatology and Liver Transplant, said, "Type 2 diabetes is the single strongest and most consistent risk factor, as it not only multiplies the chances of fibrosis several times but also increases the likelihood of cirrhosis. The risk and damage to the liver are not limited to these two factors alone. Age has long been a major factor, with the risk increasing after the age of 40. However, younger people in their 20s are also getting affected."

Before leading to diabetes, MASLD significantly contributes to hormonal issues such as PCOS. Dr Sonal Asthana, Lead Consultant, HPB and Liver Transplant Surgery, said, "There is a clear connection between MASLD, insulin resistance, and conditions like PCOS, as insulin resistance is a key underlying factor that links them. When the body becomes resistant to insulin, it leads to higher blood sugar and increased fat storage, especially in the liver and abdomen, increasing the risks. This same process also plays a major role in PCOS by affecting hormone balance and metabolism."

"Sleep disruption and stress play a significant role but are often underestimated, as poor sleep and chronic stress can disturb hormone balance, increase cortisol levels, and worsen insulin resistance," he added.

Chinnaswamy Stadium sees fans brave scorching heat for RCB-DC clash

Fans outside the M Chinnaswamy Stadium ahead of the IPL 2026 match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Delhi Capitals in Bengaluru on Saturday. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

Fans thronged the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Saturday as Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) supporters gathered for the clash against Delhi Capitals (DC). Despite the gruelling afternoon sun, the atmosphere remained electric for the day game.

With over 2,000 police personnel deployed to ensure security, thousands of supporters queued up early, eager to witness the contest between Bengaluru's own K L Rahul, turning out for DC, and the city's icon, Virat Kohli.

Young fans were equally vocal. Aneesh, a primary school pupil waving an RCB flag, brushed aside the regional connection to Rahul. "I'm here for Rajat Patidar and Kohli," he said. "RCB is the only team for me."

The team's appeal drew fans from across the State. Nataraj, who travelled nearly 500 km from Ukkeri in Belagavi district, described the experience as a pilgrimage. "Since 2008, through every loss and win, we have stayed. RCB isn't just a cricket team, it's an emotion for every Kannadiga," he said.

Another fan from Hubballi, attending his first-ever live match, echoed the sentiment. "The heat is nothing compared to the joy of being here."

The match also saw Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar join fans at the stadium.

SSLC: Edu minister rejects grace marks plea over third language

Schools say students confused by last-minute policy shift

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka has urged School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa to award eight grace marks in the third language paper for students who appeared for the recently held SSLC examinations, citing confusion caused by the government's last-minute policy shift.

In its petition, the association said the government's announcement, made just four days before the examination, that third-language subjects would be assessed through grades instead of marks had left students confused. It said many students took the paper lightly after the announcement and were now under stress following the court's direction to follow the earlier evaluation pattern.

The association urged the government to award grace marks in view of the uncertainty surrounding the subject. However, Bangarappa dismissed the demand, terming the petition "thoughtless". The minister assured that there won't be delay in the announcement of SSLC results.

The Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka said the government's decision on awarding grades for third-language subjects came just four days before the examination.

Meanwhile, MLC Shashil G Namoshi has objected to the move to shift from marks to grades for third-language subjects in SSLC.

In a letter to the Additional Chief Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy, Namoshi said the proposed change could run contrary to the Constitutional Bench order on language policy. He argued that the government must ensure every student gets equal opportunity and competency in learning languages, and cautioned that diluting the third language requirement could go against the spirit of the law.

He has demanded withdrawal of the draft notification issued on April 10 and said no amendment should be implemented retrospectively for the academic year 2025-26. He also demanded that the proposal be kept in abeyance.

Ability to raise debt to determine energy transition: Study

BENGALURU, DHNS: As India targets 60% non-fossil energy capacity mix by 2035 under the revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), a new report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) notes that the renewable sector's ability to raise long-tenor, amortising debt will ultimately determine whether the transition succeeds.

The researchers assessed the credit risk profiles of eight key power generators in the country, from Adani Green Energy Limited to ReNew Power and the state-owned National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited.

The report, titled 'Financing the Energy Transition: A Credit Perspective on India's Power Sector', is co-authored by Kevin Leung (Sustainable Finance Analyst, Debt Markets, Europe), Saurabh Trivedi (Lead Specialist, Sustainable Finance & Carbon Markets, South Asia) and Soni Tiwari (Energy Finance Analyst, India).

The assessment showed that renewable assets structurally outperform thermal on profitability. However, the expansion is heavily debt financed.

"Seven of the eight companies analysed generated negative free cash flow in FY2025, reflecting capital-intensive buildouts that are funded predominantly through debt," it said, noting that while growth will continue due to the announcement of capex, the question remains whether the assets can support sustainable debt service.

It emphasised the 'untapped potential' in the bond markets by pointing to the fact that the eight utilities analysed raise approximately 80% of their debt through loans. Further, it said the NTPC was central to unlocking transition finance.

Two kids die as community hall name plaque collapses

MANVI (RAICHUR DISTRICT), DHNS: Two kids died while three others sustained grievous injuries after a name plaque of a community hall in Bailmarchad village of Manvi taluk collapsed on them on Friday night.

Vishwanath Ramalinga (9) and Sanvitha Peddaiah (2) died on the spot. Basamma Hanumantaraya (40), Lakshmi Hanumantaraya and Yellamma Sanna Veeresh (3), who suffered serious injuries in the incident, have been rushed to OPEC Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty Hospital in Raichur.

The incident occurred when the victims, along with villagers, were watching Bayalata being performed in front of the community hall. The name plaque suddenly collapsed killing two kids on the spot and injuring three others.

Stop creating more study chairs at varsities : Panel

Ensure each chair is allocated Rs 1 crore at least: Committee

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Baraguru Ramchandrappa-headed committee constituted to submit a report on study chairs at state-run universities has strongly advised against yielding to pressure and establishing new ones.

In fact, the committee has recommended not to establish chairs in the name of benefactors. While donations from private parties was welcome, establishment of study chairs must be the exclusive prerogative of the universities, the committee stated.

A minimum sum of Rs 1 crore must be allocated to any chair established at universities, the committee recommended, calling upon those associated with the chair to formulate specific action plans to mobilise additional funds.

Flagging the disparity in allocations to different study chairs, the committee said, "The government allocates a lump sum for the establishment of chairs at varsities. With the interest earned on the money so allocated, the chairs are required to conduct programmes. But it was found that the money allocated is different for each chair. While some have a capital of only Rs 5 lakh, others boast sums to the tune of Rs 1 crore to Rs 5 crore".

Any decision to establish a study chair is to be taken after a thorough evaluation of the social and cultural contributions of the individuals after whom it is named, the panel said.

The activities of the chairs must not be confined to study and discussions on the contribution of those individuals, rather they must become centres where topics based on the broad philosophies and views of the specific individuals are studied and analysed, the committee recommended.

Lamenting the paucity of chairs named for women, the committee added, "It is necessary to establish chairs in the names of women who have made significant contributions to social, educational and cultural fields. Certificate courses can be offered in accordance with the wishes of the respective chairs. Fellowships can also be given. This will help in building a constructive relationship between those pursuing studies in the specific domain and the study chairs".

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA
EXTRA-ORDINARY APPELLATE JURISDICTION
Petition for Special Leave to Appeal (Civil) [REDACTED]
WITH PRAYER FOR INTERIM RELIEF

SRI DURGAMBA EDUCATIONAL TRUST (R) AND OTHERS ...Petitioner(s)
VERSUS
THE STATE OF KARNATAKA AND OTHERS ... Respondent(s)

To,

1 B. RAMACHANDRAPPA S/O LATE H. BYLAPPA, R/O SUBEDHARPALYA JARAKABANDE KAVAL YELAHANKA HOBLI BENGALURU NORTH TALUK BENGALURU - 560 064, DISTRICT- BANGALORE, KARNATAKA — PID: 102034/2026 FOR R[13] IN SLP(C) NO.21747/2024(SEC IV-A)

2 B. SHESHAMMA D/O H. BYLAPPA, R/O NO. 348, 7TH CROSS ATTUR LAYOUT, BENGALURU - 560 064, DISTRICT- BANGALORE,KARNATAKA — PID: 102035/2026 FOR R[14] IN SLP(C) NO.21747/2024(SEC IV-A)

3 VASANTHA D/O LATE BYLAPPA, R/O T. DASARAHALLI YESHWANTHPURA HOBLI BENGALURU - 560058, DISTRICT- BANGALORE, KARNATAKA — PID:102036/2026 FOR R[15] IN SLP(C) NO.21747/2024(SEC IV-A)

4 S.B. BALAJI S/O LATE H. BYLAPPA, R/O SUBEDHARPALYA JARAKABANDEKAVAL YELAHANKA HOBLI, BENGALURU NORTH TALUK BENGALURU - 560 064, DISTRICT- BANGALORE, KARNATAKA — PID:102037/2026 FOR R[16] IN SLP(C) NO.21747/2024(SEC IV-A)

5 S.B. HANUMANTHARAYAPPA S/O LATE H. BYLAPPA, R/O SUBEDHARPALYA JARAKABANDEKAVAL, YELAHANKA HOBLI, BENGALURU, NORTH TALUK, BENGALURU - 560.064, DISTRICT- BANGALORE, KARNATAKA — PID:102038/2026 FOR R[17] IN SLP(C) NO.21747/2024(SEC IV-A)

WHEREAS the Petition for SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CIVIL) to Appeal with application for **CONDONATION OF DELAY IN REFILING / CURING THE DEFECTS, EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T., PERMISSION TO FILE ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS/FACTS/ANNEXURES, APPLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 CPCFOR EFFECTING SERVICE THROUGH PUBLICATION, STAY APPLICATION, EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T.** above mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by M/S. S-LEGAL ASSOCIATES, Advocate on behalf of the Petitioner above named was listed for hearing before this Court on 13th September, 2024, when the Court was pleased to pass the following order:-

"Delay condoned.
Issue notice, returnable in four weeks."

WHEREAS, the matter was listed for hearing before this Court on 13th April, 2026, when the Court was pleased to pass the following order:-

"SLP(C)_No.21747 of 2024
LA. No.79882/2025
1. Application for effecting service upon respondent Nos.13-17 through publication is allowed.
2. List on 11.05.2026. "

NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above petition will be posted for hearing before this Court on **11th May, 2026 at 10.30 O' Clock in the forenoon** or so soon thereafter as may be convenient to the Court when you may appear before the court either in person or through Counsel and show cause to the Court as to why Special Leave and interim relief as prayed for be not granted and the resultant appeal be not allowed.

You may file your affidavit in opposition to the petition as provided under Rule 14(1) of Order XXI, S.C.R.2013 immediately from the date of receipt of notice or not later than 2 weeks before the date appointed for hearing, whichever be earlier, but shall do so only by setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of law or grounds set out in the SLPs and may produce such pleadings and documents filed before the Court/Tribunal against whose order the SLP is filed and shall also set out the grounds for not granting interim order or for vacating interim order if already granted.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to enter appearance as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence.

Dated :**17th April, 2026** **ASSISTAT REGISTRAR**

Copy to:-
1 M/s. S-legal Associates (adv.)
2 Mr. E. C. Vidya Sagar (adv.)
3 Mr. Sanchit Garga (adv.)
4 M/s. Dharmaprabhas Law Associates (adv.)
5 Ms. Charulata Chaudhary (adv.) **ASSISTAT REGISTRAR**

Important Notice
LEGAL AID

(1) Legal Services of an advocate is provided by the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee and the Supreme Court Middle Income Group Legal Aid Society to eligible litigants.

For further information, please contact the Secretary, Supreme Court Legal Services Committee or the Member Secretary, Supreme Court Middle Income Group Legal Aid Society, 107-108, Lawyers' Chambers, R.K. Jain Block - Near Post Office, Supreme Court Compound, Tilak Marg, New Delhi-110001 (Tel Nos. 011-23116353,23116354 (Additional Building Complex) and 011-23381257 (Front Office)

MEDIATION

(2) The facility of amicable settlement of disputes by trained mediators in cases pending in the Supreme Court is now available in the Supreme Court.

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PM SHRI School Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya
(A Unit of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti)
Ministry of Education, Deptt. Of School Education & Literacy, Govt. of India
Village: Basettihalli, District: Bengaluru Rural, State:Karnataka, Pin Code: 562163

F.No.10-1/JNVD/2026-27/ Date:18.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sealed tenders are invited from the reputed firms/manufactures only for the supply of **1. Rice, 2. Kirana/Provision, 3. Bakery Items, 4. Vegetables, 5. Eggs, 6. Fruits, 7. Poultry(Chicken/Mutton) 8. Biscuit (Branded) 9. Masonary Items(Cement & Hardware Items) 10. Toilet Items, 11. Stationery Items (Office Stationery), 12. Bed & Pillow 13. Bedding Items 14. Hair Cutting 15. Uniform Washing and Ironing, 16. Wastage of Mess food Items, 17. Scrap Items & 18. Labour Outsourcing** details of which are in tender document. Interested Firms/Parties and well-established firms/manufacturers may obtain the tender schedule with conditions and specifications from this office by paying **Rs.200/-** (Each) cash or Payment of **Rs.200/-** through DD/online transfer to the Principal, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Bangalore Rural at Bashettihalli, during the office hours on any working day from **20.04.2026 to 11.05.2026** between **10.00 am to 5.00 pm.** The sealed tender document should be submitted on or before **05.00 pm on 11.05.2026.**

The date of **Tender Opening is 12.05.2026 at 11.00** am in the Vidyalaya premises.

Sd/- Principal
JNV-BANGALORE RURAL

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA
World Trade Centre, 6th Floor, Tower-F,
Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi

Vacancy Circular No. 1-03/2026-HR

Sub: Filling up of the post of Advisor in TRAI Regional Office Bengaluru on deputation on foreign service terms: Extension of last date for receipt of applications - Reg.

Reference is invited to TRAI, New Delhi vacancy circular of even No. dated 02nd March 2026 vide which applications were invited for filling up the following post in **TRAI Regional Office Bengaluru** on deputation on foreign service terms:-

Name of Post	Pay Band & Grade Pay
ADVISOR	Pay Level-14 Rs, 144200-218200 in Pay Matrix as per 7th CPC plus allowances such as DA, HRA etc. as per Govt. Rules.

2. The last date to submit online applications has now been extended **upto 27th April 2026.**
3. Fufther details can be obtained from the TRAI website **www.trai.gov.in**

CBC 06202/12/0002/2627

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
SIGNALLING WORK

Tender Notice No.SUR-NC-CR-SNT -C-S-01-2027 Dated 16-04-2026

Assistant Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer (Construction) C.R., Solapur, for & on behalf of The President of India, invites online open e-tenders from eligible tenderers for following work. **1 E-Tender No.:-** SUR-NC-CR-SNT-C-S-01-2027 Dated 16-04-2026, **2 Name of Work:-** Supply, Installation, Testing & commissioning for provision of Electronic Interlocking (both indoor and outdoor signaling gears) in connection with ROR connectivity at Manmad station and associated residual work in DD-MMR section in connection with DD-MMR doubling work. **3. Approx, cost of work:-** Rs. 15,49,85,878.75 (Rs. Fifteen Crore Forty-Nine Lakh Eighty-Five Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Eight and Seventy-Five paise Only). **4 Cost of Tender Form/Booklet:-** Rs.0.00, **5 Earnest Money:-** Rs. 30,99,700.00/- (Rs. Thirty Lakh Ninty-Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Only), **6 Completion period of the work:-** 09 Months (Nine Months) from the date of issuing LOA. Including monsoon and harvest period. **7 Start date for submission of tender:-** Date: 24.04.2026., **8. Last date and time for submission of tender:-** Date: 08.05.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs., **9 Date and time of closing of tender:-** Date: 08.05.2026 up to 15:00 Hrs., **10 Website where complete details of tender available:- www.ireps.gov.in**

15 **A.D.S.T.E. (C)/Solapur**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Publics are hereby informed that my client **M/s DS-Max Properties Pvt. Ltd.**, having its office at No. 1794, 14th Main, 30th Cross, HBR Layout, 1st Stage, 5th Block, Bengaluru- 43 and intend to enter into Absolute Sale Deed with Owner **Smt Rathnamma @ Baby** w/o Late Sridhar is the absolute owner of Agricultural land property bearing Sy. No. **136/1**, which measuring **1 acre 31.08 guntas**, situated at **Muthkur Village**, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded on **East by:** Land of Sy.No.137, **West by:** Land of Sy.No. 136/2, **North by:** Naganayakanakote Gadi & Private lands, **South by:** Road and referred to as "schedule property".

Any person or Any Authority or Any promoters having any asserting right, title, interest and claims to oppose for Absolute Sale Deed of property and further having any manner of right, title, claims etc., and may lodge their objections, claims over the property along with relevant papers in support of their claims, right to the below address within **15** days from the date of this notice, if any objections fails to comply, my client shall take further steps and deemed for entering into Absolute Sale Deed of property.

LINGARAJ. S. NADAGOUDA., ADVOCATE
No.1854, 17th Main, 30th 'B' Cross, HBR Layout, 1st Stage, 5th Block, Bangalore - 560 043.
Mob : 96204 74780 , 94481 35970

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
ELECTRICAL WORK

The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD), Central Railway, Solapur, for and on behalf of the President of India invites online e-tenders on Railways e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from reputed, experienced & licensed Electrical contractors for the following works. **Tender No.:- SUR/TD/ T/2026/10 Name of Work:-** Upgradation of OHE by provision of 160 sq. mm jumper in place of 105 sq. mm jumper at turnout and crossover locations of Solapur Division., **Estimated cost:-** ₹2,55,53,616/- **Bid Security:-** ₹5,11,100/-, **Completion Period:-** 12 months, **Validity of offer:-** 60 Days, **Date & time of tender closing on website:-** 12/05/2026 at 15.00 hours.

Sr. DEE (TRD)/ Solapur

18

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SSLC 3rd language: State...

SSLC, From Jacket 2

The state government claimed that the petitioners could not have relied upon the October 28, 2025 circular since the amendment to be introduced would override this circular. The state government stated that the National Skill Qualification Framework covers other subjects like Automobile, Information Technology, Electronics, Beauty and Wellness, Apparels and Retails. These subjects have been chosen in lieu of a third language for the past more than 10 years.

Many students have chosen one of these subjects falling within the NSQF in place of a third language and all the subjects offered under NSQF should also be declared in the form of grades as per the proposed amendment to Rule 16, the review petition said. These subjects, along with third language, should be entered as additional subjects in the marks card and not to be considered for passing with effect from 2025-2026, the state government said.

No algorithm can replace human conscience, says CM

Siddu pitches for Supreme Court bench in South India

BENGALURU, DHNS

Cautioning against "digital Social Darwinism," Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday asserted that while Artificial Intelligence (AI) can assist the judiciary, it can never replace the human empathy and moral reasoning, that is essential to justice.

Speaking at the inaugural of the 22nd Biennial State Level Conference of Judicial Officers on Saturday, themed 'Reimagining the Judiciary in the Era of Artificial Intelligence,' the chief minister highlighted the dual-edged nature of technology in the legal sphere.

The event, which was held at the GKVK International Convention Centre, was attended by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Surya Kant and senior judges of the Supreme Court.

Social inequalities

The Chief Minister warned that if unregulated, AI systems could replicate and amplify existing social inequalities.

"Algorithms can entrench biases relating to caste, class and access. We must ensure that constitutional values guide technological adoption, and not the other way around," he said.

He further noted that the emergence of deepfakes and synthetic data challenges established legal doctrines.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant inaugurates the 22nd Biennial State Level Conference of Judicial Officers, in Bengaluru on Saturday. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Supreme Court judges Justices Arvind Kumar and B V Nagarathna and Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru are seen. DH PHOTO/MANJUNATH M S

"The courts will increasingly be called upon to determine what constitutes reliable evidence in a digital age. Truth must remain grounded in verifiability, not just technological sophistication."

Siddaramaiah made a strong pitch for the establishment of a Supreme Court bench in South India.

The chief minister arguing that this would significantly improve the accessibility to the country's highest court for millions.

Faster legal research

Addressing the perennial problem of case pendency, he urged for a blend of technological tools like blockchain for secure records and AI for faster legal research with systemic reforms such as infrastructure upgrades and judicial capacity building.

Judicial infra

Siddaramaiah reiterated the state government's commitment to strengthening judicial infrastructure without encroaching upon its independence.

"Governance must act as a partner in strengthening the justice delivery system, never as an encroacher," he said, promising timely filling of vacancies and promoting access to justice in local languages.

The conference was attended by Supreme Court Judges Justice B V Nagarathna and Justice Aravind Kumar, and Karnataka High Court Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru.

1 year after Pahalgam, Kashmir reflects on loss, livelihood

Kashmir, From Jacket 2

Business leaders echoed this concern. The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry noted that such incidents "damage not only the economy but also the image of Kashmiris across the country".

Within Kashmir, however, the response to the attack marked a significant shift.

Protests were held across towns, with residents condemning the killings and calling them a blow to Kashmir's identity and values.

Religious and community leaders also spoke out. Hurriyat Conference chairman and Kashmir's head priest Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said Kashmiris "stand shoulder to shoulder with the victims", reflecting widespread anger against the attack.

Trade bodies stressed that those behind such violence do not represent the people of Kashmir.

"Fringe elements backed from across the border cannot speak for Kashmir," said a statement by the Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation. "The majority of Kashmiris reject violence and want peace."

Security officials say attacks like Pahalgam are aimed at sustaining instability and damaging Kashmir's economic recovery, particularly tourism — often seen as a barometer of normalcy.

While infiltration attempts and foreign terrorists remain a concern, analysts point to a decline in local recruitment and growing public fatigue with violence.

As the anniversary approaches, that sentiment is becoming more visible.

"Violence is not the answer," said a Srinagar-based tour operator. "It only pushes Kashmir backwards."

A year after Pahalgam, the contradiction is stark: while terror groups claim to act for Kashmir, their actions continue to hurt the very people they claim to represent.

And increasingly, Kashmiris are saying so — openly.

International meet weighs in on India's expanding aerospace sector

Examines airport infra, indigenous manufacturing and role of AI

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

9th International Conference on the
Future of Aviation and Aerospace 2026
Saturday, 18 April 2026 at Taj West End, Bengaluru

The discussion on 'Market Potential for Aviation & Aerospace in India' was moderated by professor G Shainesh, and featured Belson Coutinho, COO, Akasa Air; Sunil Bhaskaran, Director - Air India Aviation Academy, Air India Limited; and Dr Vasudevan S, Former APAC Head - Aviation, Travel and Tourism, ICF Consulting, and Advisor, AeroInfraStratgix.

The ninth edition of the International Conference on Future of Aviation and Aerospace (FOAA) held on Saturday in Bengaluru brought together industry leaders, policymakers, researchers and entrepreneurs to deliberate on the future of India's rapidly expanding aviation and aerospace sector, especially with Bengaluru emerging as a focal point in the discussions.

Hosted by IIM Bangalore (IIMB) in partnership with TBS Education (France), the summit examined India's market potential, indigenous manufacturing, airport infrastructure, talent development and the growing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in the sector.

In her inaugural address, Annett Baessler, Deputy Consul General at the German Consulate in Bengaluru, underscored the city's strategic role in strengthening India-Europe aviation ties. She noted that India had become one of Airbus' largest engineering hubs outside Europe and said Bengaluru was central to that growth.

This was followed by a keynote address by the CEO of Lufthansa Systems India Luigi Celmi, who advised the new entrants to the industry to keep pace and enjoy the dynamic personal growth that comes with being part of the evolution of the aviation ecosystem.

Panel discussions

Overall, the event saw six panel discussions. The first one focused on market potential, with executives from Akasa Air, Air India and industry consultants describing Indian aviation as being at an "inflection point".

"Expansion of airports, digitisation, modernisation of airspace, MRO development, and opportunity to build good talent meant that this sector was entering its golden era in India," said Belson Coutinho, COO, Akasa Air, adding that these factors led to the founding of Akasa Air.

The subsequent panel examined the 'Make in India' push, with officials from Collins Aerospace, Mahindra Aerospace, Sasmos Group, and AeroEdison, provided insight into the developments within their respective companies.

The other panels focused on 'Design and manufacturing in India for the global aerospace', 'Future opportunities and challenges in talent development' and 'Future of AI and analytics'.

Another key discussion centred on the future of airports and aviation infrastructure, complete with a presentation by Wing Commander Jitender Singla, Head of Airside Operations, Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL), on the upcoming expansions at the airport.

As a part of this discussion, Professor G Raghuram, former Director, IIMB, also shared a study comparing the operations at major Indian airports run by the Airport Authority of India to the airports operating under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.

"In general, PPP airports have higher passenger experience ratings, demonstrate stronger performance in responsiveness, decision making and coordination, extract value by monetising and commercialising airport land, emphasise long-term partnerships with airlines and retail operators, and enhance capacity by building new terminals and improving airside and city-side infrastructure," he shared.

Modi slams 'anti-women' Congress after Bill defeat

Modi, From Jacket 2

Nari Shakti (women's power) and the country's benefits have to take the hit, Modi said, adding that it was "very sad" to see that when the Bill was defeated. "These guys were celebrating and banging the bench...That was not just a bang on the table, it was an attack on the self-respect of the women of the country," Modi said.

He added that the amendment to the Women's Reservation Act, 2023 was meant to grant women their long-pending rights, which has been delayed for 40 years, from the next Lok Sabha election in 2029.

Modi said that the government brought the Bills with a "clear" intent, with an aim to empower women and provide equal opportunities to all states. "Congress wants to fan hatred in the name of delimitation and wants to divide the country," he alleged.

He also took aim at all the Opposition parties and said that apart from Congress, the DMK, the TMC and the SP are the "culprits of the constitution and women empowerment".

"The Congress has always hated the idea of women's reservation. But the other parties, too, have done the women a disfavour," he said.

Modi alleged that the Opposition parties have "lied" to their own states. "The DMK could have ensured more seats for Tamil Nadu, but lost this chance. The TMC, too, could have had more seats for Bengal," he said.

Taking a swipe at the Samajwadi Party, Modi said the party too could have cleaned their image of an "anti-women party". "The SP has forgotten Lohia long back, but could have cleared their name," he said.

Economic growth with eco stability is sutainable goal for 2047: CJI

BENGALURU, DHNS

The sustainable goal for 2047 should be the synchronised economic growth with ecological sensibility, said Chief Justice of India Surya Kant. He was speaking at the 'International Conference on Sustainable Energy: An Agenda For India @2047' in Bengaluru n Saturday.

"India is still in the developmental phase and we cannot afford to treat environmental protection and economic growth as a binary choice. Energy justice is the need of the hour as it helps rising nations to grow without compromising on what belongs to our citizens such as clean water and liveable future," said the Chief Justice.

Speaking about the role of justice in ecological issues, Surya Kant said, "The justice role must insist that every developmental decision made should be within the constitutional framework of fairness, transparency and accountability."

Pointing out a few environmental issues that the Supreme Court has passed significant judgements on, Surya Kant said, "Shifting vehicles to CNG in Delhi, regulation of industries around Taj Mahal area, mandate on pollution in NCR-Delhi, protection of tiger reserves, wildlife protection during the time of construction of national highways - have proved that we can address the environmental issues effectively."

The CJI said that the development of Bengaluru reminds that development need not be adverse and tradition and transformation can exist at the same time at the same place.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that Karnataka was at the forefront of India's renewable energy journey. "We have optimally promoted clean technologies, encouraged private investments and built progressive regulatory frameworks that support innovation and sustainability," he said.

The CM explained that Karnataka has an installed renewable energy capacity of over 25,700 MW with solar power contributing more than 10,500 MW.

Marriage no longer ends careers of actresses, says Jayamala

BENGALURU, DHNS

Veteran actor and President of the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC), Jayamala, noted on Saturday that the shelf life of female actors in the film industry had historically been shorter than that of their male counterparts, but the trend is finally shifting.

Speaking as the guest of the month at the 249th edition of 'Maneyangaladalli Mathukathe' organised by the Department of Kannada and Culture at Nayana Rangamandira, Jayamala reflected on the evolving landscape of Sandalwood.

"In the past, marriage often signalled the end of an actress's journey. Audiences would frequently reject them once they wed," Jayamala said.

She said in earlier decades, the pressure was so immense that many actresses felt compelled to hide their marital status, leading to significant personal distress.

Actor and president of the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce Jayamala takes part in 'Maneyangaladalli Mathukathe' programme organised by the Department of Kannada and Culture on Saturday.

Paying tribute to late actress Manjula, Jayamala said, "If the industry had the progressive mindset it has today, a brilliant actress like Manjula may have lived longer".

"Given a chance, a woman's talent flourishes naturally. Women treat their professional spheres with the same care they give their homes. However, for a woman to truly grow, the encouragement of men is also vital," she said.

Jayamala shared that she had already acted in 4 Tulu films by the time she finished SSLC. Her breakthrough in the Kannada industry came with a supporting role in 'Bhootayyana Maga Ayyu'.

Her trajectory changed when Varadappa introduced her to Parvathamma Rajkumar, leading to her debut as a leading lady opposite Dr Rajkumar in 'Premada Kanike'. She eventually went on to star in 7 films with the matinee idol. She described Dr Rajkumar as a "divine figure" in her professional life.

Govt writes to SEC, seeks extension of Bengaluru civic body polls

B'luru polls, From Jacket 2

"Along with this, a lot of personnel will be involved in examination-related duties in the months of May and June, which will again reduce the strength of manpower for other activities," the letter stated.

Citing these activities, the government has requested the SEC to extend the timeline to ensure proper arrangements for the urban local body elections. The government's letter is addressed to S Honamba, secretary, Karnataka State Election Commission.

The request indicates a potential delay in the conduct of civic polls in Bengaluru, pending a decision by the State Election Commission on the proposed extension.

SEC Commissioner GS Sangreshi was not available for comments.

Before taking the final decision, the SEC may have to file a fresh affidavit before the Supreme Court seeking its consent for extending the election date as the commission had earlier made a commitment before the apex court that it would hold the civic body polls, due since September 2020, by the end of June this year.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast April 19: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	37.8	23	00
Bidar	40.6	25.5	00
Vijayapura	40	24.5	00
Dharwad	38	21.2	00
Haveri	37.8	23.4	00
Kalaburagi	42.2	26.8	00
Raichur	41	26	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	34.5	25.1	00
Karwar	35.2	26	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	35	28	00

INTERIOR SOUTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	34.1	23.3	00
Bengaluru	36.3	23.9	00
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	38	23.2	00
Davangere	37.5	21.5	00
Hassan	34.8	NA	00
Mysuru	37	22.8	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	37.2	18.6	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	41	19.8	00
Kolkata	35.6	27.6	00
Mumbai	33.1	25.1	00
Chennai	37.1	28.4	00
Pune	40.3	22	00
Hyderabad	40.6	28.2	00
Th'puram	35.6	26.9	00

Child Protection Unit prevents class four girl's wedding in Koppal

KOPPAL, DHNS: Parents in Yelburga, Koppal district, frustrated with their daughter's mobile addiction decided that the best way to fix the problem was to get the girl, a student of class four, married. Thankfully, officials of the district child protection unit got wind of the wedding plans and rescued the girl.

The incident was reported in an area under the jurisdiction of the Bewoor police station in Yelburga taluk, where the parents had arranged to marry off their minor daughter during Basava Jayanti festivities on April 20. On learning of the wedding plans, the officials carried out an operation and averted the marriage. On being asked why they had planned their underage daughter's wedding, the parents reportedly attributed the cause to her mobile addiction, which they said was leading her astray.

Meanwhile, child protection unit officials also prevented a child marriage in Kanakagiri taluk, wherein a 16-year-old girl studying in class eight was the bride. Impressed with the wealth of the groom's family, the girl's parents had finalised the alliance and planned the wedding. The child protection unit received a call on its helpline number 108, following which the officials sprung into action and prevented the wedding from going ahead.

Koppal district child protection officer Sindhu Angadi said that calls made to the childcare helpline number had helped them prevent two child marriages. She called upon people not to ruin the lives of their daughters by getting them married before they came of age legally.

Scheme for women entrepreneurs loses steam

Govt scheme, From Jacket 2

"A committee headed by each MLA has powers to approve two to three applications. Considering that the number of applications are high, the committee has found it difficult to just choose one or two. Hence, we have not received the final beneficiary list to process the applications," she said.

District-level officials have now been asked to follow up with the committees and MLAs to ensure that more beneficiaries are selected.

Sources said that in many cases the beneficiaries selected by the committees had defaulted on previous loans, indicating a poor judgement in choosing beneficiaries.

"The CIBIL score of many beneficiaries was bad and the banks refused to process their loan applications. Hence, beneficiaries had to be selected again," one of the sources said.

Technical glitches have also delayed the process in some cases, Hebbalkar said.

Some women entrepreneurs said the government should work more towards promoting these schemes and tracking their progress.

"There are many schemes that the government announces but does not track the progress. For women, especially, it gets difficult to keep following up with officials and running around to get the benefit of the scheme and hence, the government should be more open and fast with respect to schemes concerning women," said Ashritha N, who runs a small bakery in Yelahanka.

TOP BRASS IN A SPOT Muslims' 'ire' over bypoll sabotage row compounds party's woes

Stage set for May potboiler as Cong camps sharpen knives

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The May 4 byelection results could escalate the power tussle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, as the government completes three years on May 20 and both camps seek clarity on the leadership issue.

Even as senior legislators and ministerial aspirants travelled to Delhi earlier this week to lobby for a Cabinet reshuffle, all eyes are on Shivakumar, who is expected to make a final push for the chief minister's post.

Any further delay leaves him with little time to make an impact, his supporters fear, and risks erosion of his support base.

A later transition would also mean he inherits anti-incumbency and shoulders the burden of the 2028 elections, at a time when the party's prospects already appear uncertain.

"The party will see a spur of activities post May 4. By June 1, both camps hope to get clarity on the leadership issue. The high command will make its intent clear. Either way, a Cabinet reshuffle is on cards — the incumbent seeks one to counter anti-incumbency or a new CM picks his own Cabinet," a senior leader said.

The leadership question coincides with a deepening internal crisis following the April 9 Davangere south byelection, marked by disciplinary action, public dissent and backlash from key communities.

MLC Abdul Jabbar was suspended and MLC Naseer Ahmed removed as political secretary to the chief minister over 'anti-party activities' linked to 'sabotage' during the bypoll.

Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan also faced similar allegations, which he denied.

Chief whip in the Council Saleem Ahmed and MLA Rizwan Arshad, who flagged sabotage, maintained that the Muslim community ultimately backed the Congress candidate.

At the centre of the row is the party's decision not to field a Muslim candidate in Davangere south despite the community's sizeable voter base there.

The Congress instead chose Samarth Mallikarjun, grandson of Shamanur Shivashankarappa, triggering resentment among local minority community leaders.

Zameer said he was campaigning in Kerala. "I didn't go on a holiday. I was a star campaigner there," he said, acknowledging initial discontent among Muslim voters.

The bypoll has also exposed factional fault lines between the Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar camps, with disciplinary action seen by some as part of the power play.

The perception that leaders close to the CM are being singled out has intensified tensions.

Shivakumar, also the KPCC president, rejected the charge and said action was taken on directions from the party high command.

Within Siddaramaiah's camp, his silence has drawn criticism. Senior leader K N Rajanna described the chief minister as "helpless" and questioned why similar standards were not applied across factions.

Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi called for "damage control", warning of a perception that the party was acting against Dalits and minorities.

"We must take them back. Dalits and minorities are our voters," he said, referring to demands for reinstating Jabbar.

Leaders like G Parameshwara, M B Patil and Eshwar Khandre are now seen as being outside both camps while nurturing chief ministerial ambitions.

For Jarkiholi, a leader from the ST community, the status quo delays his prospects of becoming state Congress chief even as he positions himself as a potential Ahinda face after Siddaramaiah.

A transition to Shivakumar during this term could also limit the number of contenders for the top post ahead of 2028.

The delay in the completion of the caste survey and internal reservation has added to discontent among Dalits.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar with Samarth Shamanur, the Congress candidate for the Davangere South byelection, on the day of the filing of nomination papers. Samarth's candidature has not gone down well with the Muslim community, which had sought the ticket as it has a sizeable voter base in the constituency. DH FILE PHOTO

Removal of ST ministers

The removal of ST Welfare Minister B Nagendra over alleged corruption in the Valmiki corporation, followed by the exit of Cooperation Minister K N Rajanna after he blamed the 'government's complacency' for vote theft, has not gone down well with the party's core base.

Wary of a backlash, no action was taken when the Opposition mounted corruption allegations against Excise Minister R B Timmapur earlier this year.

Insiders say some leaders are exploring options with BJP and JD(S), ahead of the 2028 elections.

For now, the high command — particularly Rahul Gandhi — is unlikely to remove an Ahinda chief minister, which could safeguard Siddaramaiah's position.

However, Shivakumar's camp maintains that after Siddaramaiah has crossed key political and governance milestones, there is little justification for further delay in their leader's anointment as chief minister.

The Congress leadership now faces the twin challenge of containing factional tensions and addressing discontent within its core support base, even as the byelection verdict looms.

Cong slams Centre over linking women's quota with delimitation

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday reiterated that the Congress is not opposed to women's reservation, and criticised the Modi government for linking it with delimitation, calling the move politically motivated.

Speaking to reporters in Bengaluru, Siddaramaiah said that the women's reservation bill was already passed in the Lok Sabha in 2023, while it's amendment had failed to materialise (on April 17) because it was tied to constituency delimitation.

"If women's reservation (amendment) had been introduced independently, it would have passed in the Parliament," he said, accusing the Centre of politicising the issue.

Echoing similar views, Home Minister G Parameshwara said that the Congress has consistently supported women's reservation, recalling that the Manmohan Singh-led government had earlier introduced the bill. However, he objected to the manner in which the Modi-led BJP government linked it to a proposed increase in Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 850 through delimitation.

"Such a major reform should have been brought after wider consultations. The Opposition was not taken into confidence," he said, adding that the bill might not have faced resistance had there been prior consensus-building.

Congress MLA N H Konaraddi alleged that the BJP was aware it lacked the two-thirds majority required for a constitutional amendment. "The bill was tabled for political reasons. The Centre should undertake delimitation scientifically instead of blaming the Congress of stalling women's quota implementation," he said. He also criticised the government for not convening an all-party meeting despite demands from Congress leaders, including Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi.

BSY condemns Opposition's 'anti-women' stance

BENGALURU, DHNS: Former Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa and other BJP leaders have vented their ire at the 'anti-women' Opposition after the women's reservation bill was defeated in the Lok Sabha.

He told reporters here, "Women have a right to political power, and opposing the bill is tantamount to opposing the principles of equality".

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka said that the Congress had 'betrayed' crores of women by blocking the passage of the bill.

"People will teach the Congress a lesson in the upcoming elections," said Ashoka, who equated the Opposition's refusal to back the bill to a conspiracy against women.

"The curse of women dreaming of entering the Assembly and Lok Sabha will be upon the Opposition parties," the leader of the Opposition said.

Ashoka's counterpart in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy said, "It's not the BJP or the NDA's defeat; the Congress and other Opposition parties have defeated the women".

The BJP's mahila morcha is holding a series of demonstrations to protest the Opposition's actions, starting in Bengaluru on Sunday.

The JD(S) held a demonstration, condemning the Opposition's stance, at the Freedom Park in the city on Saturday.

CANINE COMFORT

Air conditioners help the police dog squad beat the heat ahead of a training session at the police parade ground in Kalaburagi on Saturday. DH PHOTO/TAJUDDIN AZAD

Governor orders probe into fund misuse at Kuvempu varsity

BENGALURU, DHNS: Governor and Chancellor of state-run universities Thaawarchand Gehlot has issued a notification constituting an inquiry commission for probing alleged irregularities at Kuvempu University in Shivamogga.

This action follows a proposal from the state government, requesting the governor to initiate disciplinary action against the officers and employees of the university.

The proposal referenced an inquiry commission report by Justice Ravindranath H, which concluded that misappropriation of funds allocated under SCSP/TSP schemes was evident and determined that the officials in charge at that time are collectively responsible for the misuse of these funds.

In his order, the governor stated, "In view of the proposal from the state government and the points raised, I find it appropriate to initiate an inquiry under Section 8(1) of the Karnataka State Universities Act, 2000. I appoint Justice R Gururajan, a former judge of the Karnataka High Court, to investigate the proposed issues as well as any related matters that may arise during the inquiry, and to submit a report within one month."

Lokayukta celebrates 40 years of service: CJI hails it as 'conscience of the state'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka Lokayukta celebrated its four decades of service on Saturday in the Banquet Hall of Vidhana Soudha. Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Surya Kant, attending as the chief guest, described the institution as the "conscience of the state," emphasising that government is a responsibility born of trust rather than a privilege of authority.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant speaks at an event to mark Karnataka Lokayukta's four decades of service, in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Guardian of accountability

Addressing a distinguished gathering of legal luminaries and state officials, CJI Surya Kant noted that in the Indian constitutional framework, power has always been understood as a stewardship exercised for the public good.

"Legacy is not merely the passage of time, but the service rendered to the people. For 40 years, this institution has reminded us that authority is trust, and duty is not a privilege," the CJI said.

He further lauded the Lokayukta's role in ensuring that justice remains a living reality for the citizens of Karnataka, specifically highlighting its impact on administrative transparency and the management of natural resources.

In a significant move toward modernising oversight, the CJI inaugurated an Online Investigation Module and a New Portal for Assets and Liabilities of elected representatives. He also released a special commemorative magazine, Lokayukta, documenting the institution's 40-year evolution since its inception in 1986.

Justice Aravind Kumar, Judge of the Supreme Court, highlighted the Lokayukta's status as one of the most effective anti-corruption ombudsmen in the country. He noted that the institution's strength lies in its ability to empower the common man against the misuse of power.

Lokayukta Justice B S Patil, in his address, reflected upon the institution's journey, noting that it has disposed of over 1.51 lakh cases since its inception. He reiterated the body's commitment to tackling nepotism and maladministration, despite various institutional challenges.

The event was held in the presence of Upa-lokayuktas Justice K N Phaneendra (Retd), Justice B Veerappa, Advocate General K Shashi Kiran Shetty and Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh.

The event concluded with a special seminar focused on the 'Redressal of Grievances under the Lokayukta Act and Strategies to Prevent Corruption'.

Plantation worker gored to death by Indian gaur in Kalasa

CHIKKAMAGALURU, DHNS: A plantation worker was killed in an Indian gaur attack at an estate at Marasanige of Kalasa taluk on Saturday.

The deceased is Chetan (30) of Kavanahalla near Horanadu. He was working at the estate when the incident occurred.

Local residents rushed him to a hospital, but he succumbed to his injuries.

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
Government of India

Bureau of Indian Standards
National Standards Body of India

BIOPACKATHON 2026

Reinventing Sachets for a Litter-Free India

Biodegradable Packaging Solution Challenge for
Pan Masala & Gutkha Sachets

Registration Open - Submit Solutions
Last Date for Submission - 24 April 2026

Any individual or entity is eligible to participate
either individually or as a team

First Prize	Second Prize	Third Prize
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Peenya Industrial Area, 1st Stage, Tumakuru
Road, Bengaluru - 560058

Website: www.bis.gov.in
Follow us on: @IndianStandards
Email: bnbo@bis.gov.in

Cabinet extends rural roads scheme till 2028-29

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Centre on Saturday decided to extend the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III) beyond March 2025 till 2028-29, with an increase in the outlay by Rs 3,727 crore to Rs 83,977 crore.

A decision to this effect was taken during the meeting of the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"The extension will focus on upgrading rural road connectivity to agricultural markets, schools and healthcare facilities. Timelines have also been extended, with road and bridge works in plain areas to be completed by March 2028 and bridge works in hilly regions by March 2029," Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

"Works sanctioned before 31.03.2025 but unawarded till now may be taken up for tender/award," the statement said.

"Long Span Bridges (LSBs) (161 Nos. with an estimated cost of Rs 961 crore) pending for sanction but lying on the alignment of already sanctioned roads may be sanctioned and tendered/awarded," the statement said.

Char Dham Yatra begins today

DEHRADUN, PTI: The annual Char Dham Yatra is all set to commence in Uttarakhand on Sunday amid a ban on the entry of non-Hindus into three of the four shrines this year.

The doors of Gangotri and Yamunotri shrines will open on Sunday on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, whereas Kedarnath in Rudraprayag and Badrinath in Chamoli will open on April 22 and 23, respectively.

This is the first time that the yatra will be conducted with restrictions on "non-Sanatanis." However, they can be allowed if certain conditions laid down by temple committees are met. The Badrinath Kedarnath Temple Committee had passed a unanimous resolution in this regard on March 10.

Cabinet clears Rs 12,980 crore maritime insurance pool

Decision after surge in premiums over ongoing war

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

In a major step to shield Indian shipping from soaring global risks following the West Asia conflict, the Centre on Saturday approved the creation of the 'Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool' (BMI Pool), backed by a sovereign guarantee of Rs 12,980 crore, to ensure uninterrupted maritime insurance coverage.

The decision comes as shipping insurance premiums have skyrocketed by nearly 1,000% due to the ongoing regional tensions.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, took this decision.

Announcing the decision, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the pool ensures that Indian trade continues to have access to affordable insurance for vessels carrying cargo from any international origin to Indian ports and vice-versa, even when transiting volatile maritime corridors.

"To set up an arrangement addressing this shortcoming, we have introduced the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool... A sovereign guarantee fund of Rs 12,980 crore will be created for maritime insurance. The insurance period will be valid for 10 years and extendable up to 15 years...," said Vaishnaw.

TRADE SHIELD

- Cabinet nod for Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMI) with Rs 12,980 crore sovereign guarantee
- Covers full maritime risks including hull, cargo, P&I, and war risk for India-linked shipping
- Reduces reliance on foreign insurers, strengthens domestic underwriting and claims ecosystem
- Ensures trade continuity & sanctions resilience for vessels to/from India, including volatile routes

The Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool will give India a domestic safety net for shipping risks, especially when global insurers or Protection and Indemnity (P&I) clubs become cautious due to wars, sanctions, or geopolitical tensions.

"The pool covers all maritime risks like Hull and Machinery, Cargo, P&I and War risk; it covers vessels carrying cargo from any international origin to Indian ports and vice versa, even when transiting volatile maritime corridors," a statement from the government said.

The government's decision is expected to significantly boost India's energy imports by providing domestic insurance cover for tankers carrying crude oil, LNG, and other critical commodities.

The move will also strengthen India's ambition to expand its shipping, ports, and global trade footprint by offering reliable financial risk backing, officials said.

At present, a large part of India's maritime liability insurance is sourced from overseas Protection and Indemnity clubs.

"The policies will be issued by insurers that are pool members, using the combined underwriting capacity of the pool, which would be around Rs 950 crore. The pool will help to manage liability insurance locally, tailored to Indian shipping conditions and regulatory requirements, develop specialised marine underwriting and claims management," it said.

Centre flags X Corp's 'selective enforcement'

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

GOVT RESPONSE

- Union govt files affidavit in response to Gujarat HC notice issued following PIL over AI-generated content
- Says X, within the US, proactively removed AI-generated content about US-Iran war
- However, it did not show such alacrity when it came to enforcement within Indian jurisdiction

The Union government has claimed that Elon Musk's X Corp (formerly Twitter) engaged in "selective application" of its artificial intelligence (AI) detection capability.

In an affidavit filed in the Gujarat High Court, the government said X had been "proactive" in identifying and removing AI-generated content within the US related to the ongoing US-Iran conflict. However, similar proactiveness was absent when it came to enforcement within the Indian jurisdiction.

The Union government filed the affidavit in response to a notice the court issued following a PIL over AI-generated or synthetically-generated content, including deepfakes.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has stated that there are ample legal provisions to stop this misuse, but the primary challenge "lies not in the absence of law or institutional mechanisms, but in the inconsistent, partial, or inadequate compliance by certain intermediaries."

It said most online platforms or intermediaries had been "onboarded on the SAHYOG Portal" for disabling or removing unlawful content.

However, according to the affidavit, X "has neither onboarded nor fully integrated with the SAHYOG portal till date and has repeatedly failed to respond to statutory notices issued by the competent authorities under Section 79 (3) of the IT Act, 2000."

The ministry said this "consistent non-responsiveness" was amply substantiated by the official data for 2024, 2025, and 2026, adding that of the 94 intimations sent to X, a formal response was received against 13.

"It has been observed that X Corp is proactively identifying and taking down all AI-generated/synthetically generated content relating to the US-Iran war across its platform within the US jurisdiction. This demonstrates that X Corp possesses the advanced technical capability, automated tools and detection mechanisms to proactively detect, flag and remove unlawful or sensitive AI-generated media content in real time," the affidavit claimed.

India summons Iran envoy over Strait of Hormuz firing row

One Indian vessel crosses Hormuz, four others turn back

NEW DELHI, PTI

People wait outside a shop to get refilled LPG cylinders amid the supply crisis in Jammu on Saturday. PTI

Two Indian-flagged vessels carrying crude oil reversed course in the Strait of Hormuz after coming under Iranian military gunfire on Saturday, prompting New Delhi to summon the Iranian envoy and lodge a strong protest.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri conveyed to Iranian ambassador Mohammad Fathali India's "deep concern" at the "shooting incident" involving the two ships in the strategic waterway, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

Misri noted the "importance that India attached to the safety of merchant shipping and mariners and recalled that Iran had earlier facilitated the safe passage of several ships bound for India," it said.

After the US and Israel launched an attack on Iran six weeks ago, Tehran largely halted traffic through the Strait of Hormuz that carries one-fifth of global oil supplies. The Iranian action has triggered a significant rise in oil prices.

Following Tehran's announcement Friday that it has opened the waterway for commercial traffic, several commercial vessels tried to cross it. However, Tehran on Saturday said that it has again closed the waterway, alleging that the US violated a certain understanding reached between the two sides.

In his meeting with the Iranian envoy, the foreign secretary told him to convey India's views on the incident to the authorities in Iran.

"Reiterating his concern at this serious incident of firing on merchant ships, the foreign secretary urged the ambassador to convey India's views to the authorities in Iran and resume at the earliest the process of facilitating India-bound ships across the Strait," the MEA said in a statement.

It said the Ambassador Fathali "undertook to convey these views to the Iranian authorities."

Earlier, government sources said the Iranian ambassador was summoned to the MEA, and a strong protest was lodged with him over the firing incident.

One Indian-flagged oil tanker crossed the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday, while at least four others trying to transit the choke point turned back after Iran signalled the strategic waterway was closed again.

Oil tanker Desh Garima appeared to have successfully crossed the Strait on Saturday, ship tracking data showed. The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) tanker is the 10th India-flagged vessel to have crossed the Strait since early March.

India must remain prepared for West Asia fallout: Rajnath

NEW DELHI, PTI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday emphasised the need for India to stay prepared for any sudden escalation in the West Asia conflict, describing the current situation as "volatile".

He said this while chairing a high-level meeting of the Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM) set up to monitor the West Asia situation.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister J P Nadda, Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu, Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, and Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar attended the meeting.

The Defence Ministry said Rajnath described the situation as "uncertain and volatile", and stressed the need for India to remain prepared for both de-escalation and renewed escalation."

Student found dead on IIT-Kharagpur campus

KOLKATA, PTI: The body of a 21-year-old student of IIT-Kharagpur was found in a pool of blood on the campus on Saturday, with police suspecting that he might have jumped from the eighth floor of a hostel building.

The deceased, Jaiveer Singh Doriya, was a third-year engineering student from Ahmedabad.

Police said his body was spotted by campus security personnel in the morning. The student was rushed to the BC Roy Hospital, where doctors declared him dead, an official said.

Preliminary investigation suggests that the student may have jumped from the eighth floor of a hostel building, a police officer said, adding the exact cause of death would be ascertained after post-mortem.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help)

INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF CHILD HEALTH
Autonomous Institute. Established By Govt. of Karnataka
(A Postgraduate Institute of Higher Medical Sciences)
Recognised Under Societies Registration Act. Reg. No. 132/85-86
South Hospital Complex, Dharmaram College Post, Bangalore-560029.
e-mail: ihealthchild@yahoo.in Website: igich.karnataka.gov.in

No. : IGICH/DRC/01/2026-27/23. Date : 18.04.2026

BRIEF NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up the following vacant posts in various departments in Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health on contract basis for a period of eleven (11) months.

Group A

Sl. No.	Department	Designation	No.of posts	Monthly accrued salary
1	Pediatrics	Asociate Professor	01	Rs. 1,50,000/-
2	Pediatric Surgery	Assistant Professor	06	Rs. 1,20,000/-
3	Neonatology		01	Rs. 1,20,000/-
4	Anaesthesia		03	Rs. 1,10,000/-
5	Pediatric Nephrology		01	Rs. 1,20,000/-
6	ENT		01	Rs. 1,10,000/-
7	Gastroenterology		01	Rs. 1,10,000/-
8	Pediatric ICU		01	Rs. 1,10,000/-
9	Medical Genetics		01	Rs. 1,10,000/-
10	Pediatric Oncology		01	Rs. 1,20,000/-
11	Pediatric Pulmonology		01	Rs. 1,10,000/-
12	Pediatric Endocrinology		01	Rs. 1,20,000/-
13	Hematology		01	Rs. 85,000/-
14	Microbiology		01	Rs. 85,000/-
15	Immunohematology & Blood Transfusion Blood Center	Immunohematology & Blood Transfusion Blood Center Officer	01	Rs. 85,000/-
16	Radiology Consultants	Radiology Consultants	02	(Two full time Consultants on contract basis with renumeration Rs. 2,50,000/-)
17	Fetal Medicine (Neonatology)	Specialist	01	Full time Consultant on contract basis with renumeration Rs. 1,50,000/- per month
18	Pediatric Neurology	Senior Resident	01	Rs. 75,000/-
19	Pediatric Endocrinology		01	Rs. 75,000/-
20	Medical Genetics		01	Rs.75,000/-

Group C

Sl. No	Designation	No. of posts	Monthly accrued salary
1	Nursing officers	50	Rs. 33,350/-

Note: 1. Interested and eligible candidates should download the application form from the organization's website **http://igich.karnataka.gov.in**, fill in the information in the application form and submit the application along with the application fee by **5.30 PM on the last date: 08.05.2026. 2.** For further information, please contact the office in between 10.30 am to 5.30 pm. email address is ihealthchild@yahoo.in

Sd/- **Director**
Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/262/SA/2026-27

3 arrested in Noida in Kerala dental student's death case

KANNUR (KERALA), PTI: Three men, arrested from Noida in Uttar Pradesh a day earlier by a cybercrime police team from Kannur in connection with the death of a first-year BDS student at a dental college in Kerala, were on Saturday remanded to judicial custody.

The Uttar Pradesh natives Rishikesh Tiwari (32) and Prashant Khewal (28), and Prakash Jai (54) from Haryana, were arrested by the cybercrime team with the assistance of Uttar Pradesh Police from an IT park-like establishment in Noida, Kannur police said.

They were remanded to judicial custody.

Meanwhile, the family of the student continued to claim that his death had nothing to do with loan apps and expressed dissatisfaction with the police investigation.

Pahalgam attack anniversary: How NIA cracked plot trail

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

With the first anniversary of the April 22, 2025, terror attack in Pahalgam approaching, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has pieced together the conspiracy through a layered investigation involving technical inputs, questioning and on-ground verification, even as further probe continues.

The agency, which took over the case within days, began by casting a wide net—questioning over 150 persons and tracking suspected overground workers.

The probe narrowed after investigators identified a local support network, leading to the arrest of two accused for allegedly harbouring the attackers. Another suspect was later booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for alleged terror financing links.

Officials said a key breakthrough came from analysis of communication patterns and technical intelligence, which helped establish links between local facilitators and handlers across the border.

Security personnel near the site of the Pahalgam terror attack, in Anantnag district, Jammu & Kashmir, on April 23, 2025. PTI

Interrogations of the arrested accused then enabled investigators to reconstruct the attackers' movement, shelter points and logistics chain, they said.

In December 2025, the NIA filed a nearly 1,600-page chargesheet before a special court, naming seven accused, including a Pakistan-based handler, the three attackers—identified as Pakistani nationals and later killed in security operations—and local facilitators.

The agency also named Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and its proxy, The Resistance Front, linking the attack to Pakistan-based groups.

Officials said the investigation indicates a remotely coordinated operation, with local operatives providing logistical support. However, the case remains under further investigation, with efforts focused on identifying additional associates, tracing financial flows, and gathering supplementary evidence.

The chargesheet has been filed, but trial proceedings are yet to conclude, and the findings of the probe will ultimately be tested in court.

Centre prepared to mitigate El Nino impact: Chouhan

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Centre on Saturday assured farmers that it is fully prepared to minimise any adverse impact from a possible El Niño event during the upcoming Kharif sowing season.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who chaired a high-level meeting, expressed confidence that the overall effect on agriculture would be limited compared to previous decades, citing comfortable water reservoir levels and improved irrigation coverage.

The meeting took place against the backdrop of the India Meteorological Department's forecast that El Niño will impact the monsoon in 2026.

He directed officials to take steps well in advance to safeguard farmers' interests.

WORK CRISIS

Record drop in MGNREGA jobs in Andhra Pradesh

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Andhra Pradesh has recorded its weakest MGNREGA performance since bifurcation, with employment generation falling sharply in FY 2025-26 across every key indicator, deteriorating further following the scheme's repeal in December 2025.

According to the latest MGNREGA Tracker released Saturday by Delhi-based LibTech India, total person-days generated fell 23.2%, from 2,422.84 lakh to 1,859.77 lakh, year on year.

The decline was broad-based as registered households dropped 6.1%, households receiving work fell 8.6%, workers employed declined 10.1%, and average workdays per household fell 16%.

Most strikingly, the number of households completing 100 days of employment collapsed 57.6% — from 5.1 lakh to 2.16 lakh. This more than halved the share of such households from 10.9% to 5%.

All 26 districts recorded a fall in person-days, with the NTR district suffering the steepest drop at 46.5%, followed by Chittoor at 38.5% and Annamayya at 30.9%.

The universality of the decline with no district-level exception pointed to systemic rather than localised failure.

Quarter-wise data revealed that the contraction began well before the scheme's repeal, though it intensified sharply in the final quarter (January-March 2026), which coincided with the transition to the new Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin), or VB-GRAM-G, framework.

The October-December quarter recorded the largest proportional decline at 59.9%, while the final quarter saw the largest absolute loss of around 170 lakh person-days.

"Employment fell throughout the year, but disruption peaked after the repeal. Even peak months did not recover as the system weakened steadily," said Chakradhar Budha of LibTech India.

He attributed the drop to a mix of reduced work availability, worker deletions, and transition-related uncertainty, noting that vulnerable communities bore a disproportionate share of the decline despite higher prevailing wages.

Chakradhar cautioned that the final quarter's figures might reflect administrative and operational disruptions specific to the transition period, including restrictions on the number of works permissible within a Gram Panchayat and constraints on opening new worksites. "These policy and technological changes may have influenced programme implementation during the post-repeal period."

Repayment of loans can't be considered to dilute maintenance amount for wife, says Supreme Court

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has recently said repayments of loans for creation or acquisition of assets by a man cannot be treated as essential or unavoidable expenditure to be accorded precedence over his statutory and legally enforceable obligation of maintenance of his wife.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Augustine George Masih emphasised that the liability to maintain a spouse is a primary obligation and cannot be subordinated to such financial arrangements.

"Deductions arising out of financial commitments such as loan repayments, particularly where they contribute towards creation of assets, cannot be placed on the same footing as necessary expenditure so as to substantially reduce the liability of maintenance," the bench said.

Enhancing the monthly maintenance amount of a woman to Rs 25,000 from Rs 15,000 per month, the court said the obligation of the husband to maintain his spouse is a primary and continuing duty, which must be discharged in a manner that enables the wife to live with dignity.

The woman assailed the Uttarakhand High Court's order of June 26, 2025, which partly allowed her revision petition against the family court's order that directed her husband to pay Rs 8,000 per month only.

She claimed within one year of marriage on May 7, 2023, in New Delhi in accordance with Hindu rites and customs, she was forced to leave the matrimonial home and return to her parental residence due to neglect and acts of physical as well as mental harassment.

On her plea filed under Section 144 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, the family court took into account her husband's salary structure and the deductions reflected therein to award her meagre sum of Rs 8,000 per month. The high court enhanced it to Rs 15,000 per month.

Seeking further enhancement, her counsel submitted the amount for maintenance was grossly inadequate and did not reflect the true earnings of her husband, a manager at Canara Bank.

The counsel said the deductions are largely voluntary in nature and related to acquisition of assets and, therefore, cannot be permitted to dilute his primary obligation.

Defending the HC's order, the husband's counsel submitted his actual disposable income was reduced on account of various financial liabilities and deductions, which have been rightly taken into account.

Allowing the woman's plea, the bench said the determination of maintenance must be guided by a balanced assessment of the earning capacity of the husband and the reasonable needs of the wife.

The bench held that deductions on account of asset-generating repayments cannot be permitted to substantially dilute the respondent's real earning capacity for the purpose of determining maintenance.

The court noted the husband was employed as a manager with Canara Bank and was drawing a gross monthly income of Rs 1,15,670.

Moreover, it found the woman has no independent source of income and has been residing separately shortly after the marriage.

"The maintenance awarded must therefore enable her to sustain herself with a reasonable degree of dignity, consistent with the status of the parties. At the same time, it is necessary to ensure that the determination remains fair and reasonable and does not impose an excessive burden upon the respondent. The exercise is one of achieving a just balance between competing considerations," the bench said, enhancing the maintenance amount to Rs 25,000 per month.

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD

3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invite tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractors & willing to Pre qualify in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned work.

Elevation works for Commercial Complex at No.955. Suryanagar Phase-1. Anekal taluk, Bengaluru. **Work Indent No.** : KHB/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT 736 & IFT No.18/2026-27 Dt 17.04.2026. **Amount put to tender :** Rs. 1,90,65,656/-.

Last date for submission of bid is on 02.05.2026 upto 4.00 PM.

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/258/AKAR/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi

No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-2/TENDER/2026-27/204 DATE: 16/04/2026

Time Extension-1/ Corrigendum e-Tender Notification

Short term tender notification No. PWD/CKD DIV/AE-2/TENDER/2025-26/8679 Dated 17/03/2026 was called. Now First time extension/Corrigendum is made to extract more bidders for the work at Sl No. 1, is as below.

Calendar of events :1)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 02-05-2026 up to 5.00 PM,2)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 04-05-2026 at 4.30 PM, 3)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids", 4)If no bid received auto extension will be done by e-proc itself for 2 days.

For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from kppp.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-129/KSMCA/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD Division Chikodi.

SAINIK SCHOOL KODAGU (KARNATAKA)

VILLAGE – KUDIGE, KUSHALNAGAR, PIN: 571 232

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION NO : 03/ APR 2026

1. A walk-in-interview will be conducted for the following posts on Casual Basis in Sainik School Kodagu on 29 Apr 26 (Wednesday). Interested candidates are to report to the school by 1000 hrs along with Biodata, original and copies of Qualifications and Experience Certificates. The post is purely on Casual basis for a period of minimum 44 days and will be renewed from time to time as required by the school.

Ser	Name of the Post	No. of Posts
1	PGT (Chemistry)	1
2	TGT (Hindi)	1

2. For detailed Notification and Application Form, visit School website **www.sainikschoolkodagu.edu.in** from **19 Apr 26.** The School administration reserves the right to cancel the vacancy due to administrative reasons.

Sd/- Principal

NANDI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE

E-mail: cimschikkaballapura@gmail.com, Phone and Fax: 08156-272388

NO:NMC&RI/CKB/E-TENDER/02/2026-27 Date:16.04.2026

Tender Notification

Nandi Medical College & Research Institution (District Hospital Campus) Chikkaballapura invites tenders from the eligible tenderers through the E-Tenders for the following subjects. **(1)** Drugs (Call-2), **(2)** Consumables (Call-2), **For further information about tender the details please log on to: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Note:** For any further information and announcements regarding this tender please keep on watching our website i.e., **https://cimschikkaballapura.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- DIRECTOR, NMC&RI, CHIKKABALLAPURA

DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPURA/RO:33/KSMCA/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಆಡಳಿತ ವೈದ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ, ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಹೊನ್ನಾಳಿ– 577217

Email:ghhonnali@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಸಾಆಹೊ/45/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.04.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಹೊನ್ನಾಳಿ ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ 2026–27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ ನಾನ್ ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್ ಸೇವೆಗಾಗಿ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17/04/2026 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04/05/2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ವರೆಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಡಿವಿಜಿ/00/
ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತ ವೈದ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು,
ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಹೊನ್ನಾಳಿ.

Government of Karnataka

Karnataka Public Works, Department, Sirasi Division(U.K), Karnataka Ph: 08384-223164, Fax: 08384-224100

No. PWD/SR./Dn/AE/IFT/NDRF/SDRF/KRDCL Bridge/2026-27/00142 Date: 15.04.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) (SHORT TERM) KW-3/4

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION

(1) The Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Sirasi invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the construction of works detailed in the Table below. The tenderers may submit tenders for any or all of the works given in the Table. **The price tender which will be opened only if the Tenderer is found to be qualified to execute the tendered works. The Tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the Instructions to Tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. (26.03.2021)** (2) Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-Procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam** under login for Contractors: (3) Tenders must be accompanied by EMD Declaration form Proforma attached (4) Tenders must be electronically submitted (on-line through internet) with in the date and time published in e-procurement portal. The technical bid will be opened after prescribed time and date in the eprocurement portal, in the presence of the Tenderers who wish to attend at the Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Department, SIRSI Division. (5) Other details can be seen in the tender documents

(Total: 4 Works)

(1) Last date and time for Tender Queries/Clarifications: **22-04-2026 up to 16.00.00** (2) Last Date and Time for receipt of tenders: **23-04-2026 up to 16.00.00** (3) Date and Time for opening of Technical Bid: **24-04-2026 @ 16.30.00** (4) Date and Time for opening of Financial Bid: **27-04-2026 @16.00.00**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Public Work Department Division
Sirsi (Uttara Kannada)

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/58/26-27 dt. 18.04.2026

KARNATAKA STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD

No.16, 2nd Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru - 560001
PH: 080-22867369 E-mail: cgmksamb@gmail.com
https://krishimaratavahini.karnataka.gov.in

No.KSAMB/Div:Res/ 35 /342/2026-27 Dated: 18.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

E-tenders are invited from Class-I (Civil) registered contractors of PWD for the Construction of Cold Storages Under **RIDF-31 scheme** in selected APMCs namely **Sindagi MMY, Kundagol MMY, Arasiker e-Habbanaghatta Kaval SMY, Rona (Hole Alur) SMY, and Hosadurga MMY. (1)** IndentNo.:APMC/202526/BD/WORK_INDENT 918. **(2)** Amount put to Tender : Rs.2931.03 Lakhs **(3)** EMD : Rs. 29.31 Lakhs **(4)** Pre-bid Meeting : 04.05.2026 at 11:00 AM (At the above office) **(5)** Last Date for Submission : 11.05.2026 up to 4:00 PM Tender documents can be downloaded and submitted through the e-procurement portal: kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Corrigendum/Addendum and further details, if any, will be available on the above website only.

DIPR/CP/SSC/245/2026-27

Sd/- Chief General Manager
Karnataka State Agicultual Marketing Board

BMCRI SUPER SPECIALITY HOSPITAL (PMSSY)

Victoria Hospital Campus, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002.
Phone / Fax: 080 - 26705883
E-mail: pmssysshospital@gmail.com, Website: www.bmcrissh.karnataka.gov.in

No: BMCRI/SSH/SUP/TEND-12/2025-26 Date: 17-04-2026

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited through the e-Procurement Portal for the **Supply of Various Equipment and Services** below notifications to **BMCRI Super Speciality Hospital, Bengaluru.**

Sl. No.	Tender Notification No.	Details
1	DME/2026-27/ IND2251	Supply of Medical Equipment
2	DME/2025-26/ IND1948/CALL-2	Supply of 120 KVA Modular UPS
3	DME/2025-26/ SE0627/CALL-2	Outsourcing of Manpower, Hardware and Software Requirements for the Implementation of ABARK

Schedule: ➢ Commencement date for Uploading of Tenders: **16-04-2026.** ➢ Tender Pre-Bid Meeting: **22-04-2026.** ➢ Last Date for Uploading the Tenders: **30-04-2026.** ➢ Date of Opening of Tender Technical Bid: **02-05-2026.** Tender details can be viewed, downloaded and applied only through the KPPP mode Website: **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact **Special Officer, BMCRI Super Speciality Hospital, Victoria Hospital Campus, K.R. Road, Bengaluru. Phone: 080-26981928 / 26705883,** E-mail: **pmssysshospital@gmail.com**, Website: **www.bmcrissh.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/253/Adverto/2026-27

Sd/- Special Officer
BMCRI Super Speciality Hospital, Bengaluru.

Government of karnataka

Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests Hassan Division, Aranya Bhavana, Dairy Circle B.M Road, Hassan-573201

Phone & Fax B 08172-268296 E-mail : dcfhassan@yahoo.in

No. A5/WL/Outsource/CR-05/2026-27 Dated 16.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

E-Tenders in the year 2026-27 and 2027-28 Hassan Circle Office, Forest Patrol Unit. Hassan Regional Forest Division Office and Hassan Divisional jurisdiction are inviting applications from interested authorized external resource agencies for the recruitment of vehicle drivers, computer operators, group D employees, forest guards, forest observers and human-wildlife conflict control teams required for the year 2026-27 and 2027-28. Tender is invited through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Tenders can be submitted through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal till 16.00 (4.00 PM) on 27.04.2026. Further details can be obtained from this office during office working days or online at http://KPPP.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-Assistant Conservator of Forests And technical Assistant to Deputy Conservator of forests, Hassan Division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/47/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/206–27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತಿ

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್‌ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು

ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:08262–220936 E-Mail: zpedckm@rediffmail.com

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:02/2026–27/90 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16–04–2026

–: ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ :–

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರುರವರು ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು. ಮೂಡಿಗೆರೆ ಮತ್ತು ನ.ರಾ.ಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಎಮ್.ಜಿ.ಎನ್.ಆರ್.ಇ.ಜಿ.ಎ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಮೂಲಕ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. **ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.8259837.00 ಮತ್ತು ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.783814.00** ವಹಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಅಥವಾ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿರುವ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ Standard Tender Document KG-I&II ರಂತೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಲಗತ್ತಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿದ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಗಳನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ :16.04.2026 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ :05.05.2026 ರ ವರೆಗೆ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ** ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಅಪ್ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡುವುದು, **ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ:07.05.2026 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.05 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಈ ದಿನಾಂಕದಂದು ಆಕಸ್ಮಿಕ ರಜಾ ದಿನಗಳು ಬಂದಲ್ಲಿ ಮರು ದಿನವನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು kppp.karnataka.gov.in website ನಲ್ಲಿ ಓದಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಷಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ತಿಳಿಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್‌ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DIVISION, GADAG.

Phone No : 08372-238782 Fax No. 08372-237268
E.Mail : eepwdgad@gmail.com

No: EEPWDGDG PB- 1 2 4 5 :Diferent Head : 2026-27/201 Dated : 17-04-2026

Tender Notification

The Executive Engineer, Public works department. Division,Gadag invites itemwise tenders from eligible tenderers of 11 work of total amount of **Rs.2195.00 Lakh** (Min estimate amount: Rs.**100.00 Lakhs** to Max Estimate Amount: **900.00 Lakhs**) for the Different Head of account on behalf of the Hon'able Governor of Karnataka as per Standard Bid Document KW- 1, 3 and 4, through http:// www. kppp. Karnataka. gov.in/

"Work Indent No : Part-1 : 32770, 32773-SC, 32781-Category-I, 32783-SC, 32780-Category-2A, 32763-SC, 32765-SC, 31697/call-2, 35034

(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **27-04-2026** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **29-04-2026** Noon 4.00 PM (c) Opening of Technical Bid Date : **30-04-2026** Financial Bid Date : **02-05-2026**

"Work Indent No : Part-2 : 34882, 33917

(a) Last Date for Clarification up to : **02-05-2026** (b) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **04-05-2026** Noon 4.00 PM (c) Opening of Technical Bid Date : **05-05-2026** Financial Bid Date : **06-05-2026**

GST shall be paid separately as per prevailing Government Order. The increase in GST shall not be paid in the extended period of contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time.

DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/31/2026-27

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.W.D. Division, Gadag.

Government of Karnataka

District Minorities Welfare Department, Vijayapura

No. MWD/Out Source/E-Tender/C.R-02/2026-27

Date: 17.04.2026

E-Tender Notification

2026-27 Vacancy in Vijayapur District Minority Welfare Department Hostel/Morarji Desai Residential Schools/ District Office/Information Centers for Cooks, Cook Assistants and Watchmen, Computer Knowledgeable First Division Assistants, Female Nurses, Cleaning Staff, Jawans and in District Office and Taluk Information Centers E-tenders are invited to procure the services of Jawan/Group 'D', Driver and Data Entry Operators/Staff through Outsourcing Agency.

1. Tender Reference No : MWD/2026-27/SE113
2. Estimated amount of tender Rs. **541.00 lakhs and E.M.D. Rs.5.41 lakhs**
3. Last date and time fixed for submission of tender: **17.06.2026 At 5.00 PM**
4. Date and place of Pre Bid Meeting with potential bidders: **23.04.2026 At 11.00 AM. District Officers Office, Minority Welfare Department, Kanakadasa Badawane, ZP, Road, Vijayapura-586109.**
5. Date and place of opening of technical bids: **25.06.2026 At 11.00 AM. District Officers Office, Minority Welfare Department, Kanakadasa Badawane, ZP, Road, Vijayapura-586109.**
6. Date and place of opening of financial bids: **03.07.2026 At 11.00 AM (Subject to change.) District Officers Office, Minority Welfare Department, Kanakadasa Badawane, ZP, Road, Vijayapura-586109.**
7. Venue where free-bid meeting will be held, technical and financial bid opening and contact for further details: **District Officers Office, Minority Welfare Department, Kanakadasa Badawane, ZP, Road, Vijayapura-586109. Tel No: 08352-276523**

Interested bidders can get the information at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in website.

Sd/- District Officer, Minority Welfare Department, Vijayapura

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/49/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti- 586201.
E-mail:dam_division@rediffmail.com

No: KBJNL/DDA/PB/TND/2026-27/87 Dated:16.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore the undersigned invites tender on Percentage basis& Service tenders from from the eligible contractors for the work indents of**Two Cover** – (1) I .No. SE0250/Call-2–112.28 Lakhs, (2) I .No. SE0260/Call-2–72.22, **The contractor can have access and submit e-tender from 17.04.2026 to 28.04.2026 up to 5-00 PM.Pre-bid meeting for I.No. SE0250 on Dt: 23.04.2026 at 11.00 am, Cover-I opened on Dt:30.04.2026 at 11-00AM & Cover-2, will be opened on 06.05.2026 at 11-00AM** at the Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti. For clarifications office of the undersigned may be contacted during office hours (Phone No. 08426-281027). Further information about electronic tendering can be had from kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/42/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

PM SHRI SCHOOL, JAWAHAR NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA

BAGALUR – 562 149 [Near : Yelahanka]
BENGALURU URBAN DISTRICT- **KARNATAKA,**
PH-080-29900456, Email ID: **jnvbengaluruurban@gmail.com**
Ministry of Education (Dept of School Education & Literacy, Government of India)

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sealed Tenders for the year 2026-27 are invited from the reputed Firms/ Agencies/Contractors/Shops/Vendors for the following works/items.

(i) RICE (ii) PROVISIONS (GROCERIES) ITEMS (iii) EGG AND CHICKEN (iv) VEGETABLES AND FRUITS (v) BAKERY ITEMS (vi) HYGIENE ITEMS(TOILETORY) (vii) WASHING AND PRESSING OF UNIFORMS (viii) DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED ARTICLES (ix) MAN POWER SERVICES (x) RUNNING OF TUCK SHOP

The Tender documents/details may be obtained from the Office of the Principal, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Bagalur, Bengaluru Urban between 9.00 A.M to 4.00 PM **on all working days w.e.f. 20.04.2026 to 11.05.2026** by paying an amount of Rs. 200/- (Two hundred only) by cash/DD which is non refundable. Further details are available in the Tender Schedule. The last date for the submission of sealed tender is **11.05.2026 by 04.00 PM BY HAND/SPEED POST /REGISTERED POST.** The tenders will be opened on **12.05.2026 at 11.00 AM** in the Office of the Principal, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Bagalur, Bengaluru Urban District in the presence of Tenderers attended.

Sd/- Principal

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Assistant Director, BCCC, 4th Floor, Annex-3, Narasimharaja Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: AD(AH)/(BCCC)/PR-14/2026-27 Date: 18-04-2026

SHORT TERM REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Assistant Director, BCCC, Bengaluru invites Re-Short Term Request for **Proposal for Collection of Entrance Fees and Slaughter Fees for Small Animals at City Meat Production and Processing Centre, Usmankhan Road, Bengaluru Central City Corporation by Interested NGO / Firm / Organisation.**

RFP Reference No: **BCCC/2025-26/SE0126/CALL-2**

1) Date of Commencement of Download of RFP Document from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 18-04-2026 onwards. 2)** Tender Inviting Authority: **Chief Veterinary Officer (Animal Husbandry), BCCC. 3)** Tender Accepting Authority: **Commissioner, BCCC. 4)** Date, Time and Venue of Pre Bid Meeting: **21-04-2026 at 12.30 PM at the Office of the Assistant Director (Animal Husbandry), BCCC, Annex-3, 4th Floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002. 5)** Last Date and Time for Uploading Online Queries in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **21-04-2026 upto 5.00 PM. 6)** Last Date and Time for Uploading of RFP in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **27-04-2026 upto 5.00 PM. 7)** Date and Time for Opening of RFP Applications in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal: **28-04-2026 at 5.10 PM. 8)** Place of Opening of RFP Applications: **Online at Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. 9)** Address for Communication: **Office of the Assistant Director (Animal Husbandry), BCCC, Annex-3, 4th Floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.** Phone: **9242260699,** E-Mail: **adahbccc@gmail.com.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/-
Assistant Director, Animal Husbandry, BCCC.

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ನೀಸ&ಒಚ (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ವಿಭಾಗ, ವಾಣಿನೀಸ ಆವರಣ, ಯಾದವಗಿರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು–570020

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾಇಂ/ನೀಸ&ಒಚ(ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ)/ಸ.ಅ/ಟಿಎನ್–02/40/2026–27 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18.04.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ/ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ KTPP ನಿಯಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ವಿವರ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ	ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ ಒಳಗೆ	ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ
				ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1	KW-1, KW-2, KW-3	05 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು	227.50	22.04.2026	29.04.2026	30.04.2026
2	KW-1, KW-4 & Goods Tender	03 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಗಳು	555.30	22.04.2026	07.05.2026	08.05.2026

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ/ಬದಲಾವಣೆ/ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/78/ಶಿರಡಿಸಾಯಿ/2026–27

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ನೀಸ&ಒಚ (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ವಿಭಾಗ
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

RAICHUR URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, RAICHUR

Mantralayam Road, I.D.S.M.T. Layout, Raichur, Karnataka - 584103, India
E-mail: rudaraichur@gmail.com, Website: https://ruda.karnataka.gov.in
Phone No: 08532-220435 Fax No: 08532-220689

No: RUDA/TECH/CA/ALLOT/01/2026-27/ DATE:18-04-2026

Notification for Civic Amenity Sites Allotment:

Karnataka Urban Development Authorities (Civic Amenities Allotment) Rules 1991 U/s 3(3)

The Raichur Urban Development Authority has invited applications for allotment of Civic Amenity Sites on the basis of 30 years Lease Agreement available in the approved private layouts of its project area to Central Government / State Government Organizations, Aided Government Organizations and Eligible Trusts/Societies/ Organizations.

1) The prescribed application form can be obtained at the office of the authority by payment of Rs.1,000/- The completed application form should be submitted to the Commissioner, Raichur Urban Development Authority, Raichur on or before Date: 28-04-2026 at 01-30 pm. Subsequent applications or applications that have not been filled properly will be rejected without consideration.

Further information / details can be made to the Office of the Authority during office hours and has been published to the Index.

DIP/RCR/25KSMCA/27/2026-27

Sd/- Commissioner,
Urban Development Authority, Raichur.

CONTINUED CONFLICT Violence, competing demands hobble new CM's peace efforts

Manipur on the boil again as govt outreach stumbles

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Oinam Binita, a nurse at a private hospital in Assam's Guwahati, decided to spend her maternity leave in her native village, Tronglaobi, in conflict-torn Manipur's Bishnupur district, surmising that it was safe due to the presence of Central security forces. She gave birth to a baby girl five months ago while her husband — Mangalngamba Oinam, a BSF jawan — was posted in Bihar.

Her faith in the security forces and the government, however, was shattered when a projectile, fired allegedly by Kuki insurgents from the adjoining Churachandpur district, hit her house at around 1 am on April 7, killing her two children — a five-year-old son and the five-month-old daughter — on the spot. Binita was hospitalised with injuries.

The shocking incident angered locals. Hours later, three died in the firing by the forces during the protests. The anger spread, leading to more protests and blockades, which precipitated clashes with the forces across the Valley.

This became a fresh worry for both the Central and state governments. Especially for the state, which has remained troubled due to the ongoing Meitei-Kuki conflict that began in May 2023.

Outreach

The spurt in violence came barely a fortnight after Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh met leaders of the Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) — an apex body of the Kuki-Zo civil society organisations — in Guwahati on March 22 as part of his efforts to break the ice and move towards finding a solution.

Leaders of the KZC, which is also engaged in talks with the Central government, however, stressed the need to fast-track efforts toward a political solution by forming a Union Territory (UT) comprising the Kuki-dominated areas.

Although Kukis were suspected to be behind the April 7 attack, the KZC denied any such involvement.

Meanwhile, the CM suspected the involvement of elements trying to derail the peace efforts he has undertaken by reaching out to the Meiteis, Kukis, and the Nagas since taking oath on February 4.

He tried to visit both the Naga and Kuki-dominated areas, but Nemcha Kipgen — the Deputy CM representing the Kukis — has not been able to visit the Valley or the Kuki-dominated districts, fearing attacks. Kipgen and the other Kuki MLAs, in fact, had to attend the Assembly virtually.

On Saturday, April 18, hours after the CM concluded a "peace mission" tour to the Naga-dominated Ukhrul district, unidentified miscreants ambushed a passenger vehicle, killing two Tangkhul Nagas on the spot in the TM Kasom area. The KZC said it could be the handiwork of a "certain factional group" and denied the allegation about the Kuki-Zo community's involvement.

Meanwhile, the CM also tried to restore movement on the highways connecting the Valley to the Kuki-dominated hill districts and resettle the displaced persons. However, the KZC warned that such efforts without a political solution could lead to fresh violence.

Women hold torches during a rally to protest against the recent bomb attack in which two children were killed, at Singjamei, in Imphal. PTI

"A new CM elected predominantly by the Meitei community alone inherits this distrust. Restoring trust will not be possible unless the Kuki community's demand for a Union Territory with a Legislature is conceded," said Sominthang Doungel, general secretary of the Kuki People's Alliance (KPA) — a political party that has two MLAs in Manipur. The KPA MLAs have maintained distance from the government since 2023.

More tensions and fears

Amid efforts to end the Meitei-Kuki conflict, the Khemchand government faced a new challenge when the Nagas and Kukis began clashing in the Naga-dominated Ukhrul district in March.

The Nagas have kept their distance from the Meitei-Kuki conflict. However, the Ukhrul violence came as an additional worry, given the history of large-scale violence involving the Kukis and Nagas in the 1990s, when more than 1,000 people died between 1992 and 1998.

Amid efforts by the new government to reach out to the communities, the clamour for a National Register of Citizens (NRC) has grown in the Valley, with many taking to the streets for it.

The Meiteis have demanded that the NRC be updated in Manipur before the Census and the subsequent delimitation exercise. The Congress in the Opposition has also supported the demand. The Meiteis have also called for "illegal migrants" — mainly from the Kuki-Zo community — to be detected, with 1951 as the cut-off date.

Faced with the fresh conflict, Khemchand repeatedly appealed to the communities to "forget and forgive" and move forward so that peace could return to Manipur. However, the appeals seemed to have made no difference so far.

The CM's assurance that Manipur's territorial integrity would remain intact has only added to the Kukis' anger: It goes against their demand for a Union Territory.

KZC spokesperson Ginza Vualzong told *DH* recently: "The root of the prevailing discontent lies primarily in unresolved land issues."

He explained: "The Kuki, Naga, and Meitei communities all face competing claims and concerns over land, making it a deeply complex and sensitive issue. Equally pressing is the continued marginalisation of tribal communities, which has further deepened divisions and grievances."

2 killed in Manipur day after CM's 'peace mission' visit

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Tension for the Yumnam Khemchand Singh-led government in conflict-torn Manipur increased as two Nagas were killed in an ambush in Ukhrul district on Saturday, a day after the chief minister made his "peace mission" tour to the Naga-dominated district.

The two, belonging to the Tangkhul Naga community, died after a passenger vehicle on the Imphal-Ukhrul Road was ambushed by suspected Kuki militants near TM Kasom village.

Two persons died on the spot, while a few others received injuries.

Ukhrul wing of the Tangkhul Naga Long, a body of Tangkhul Nagas, said the deceased were identified as Chinaoshang Shokwungnao, son of Ruichumhao Shokwungnao, a retired army personnel and Yaruingam Vashum. Condemning the attack, the group demanded that the government to launch a crackdown against Kuki insurgents in Ukhrul district.

During his visit to Ukhrul on Friday, Singh asked the Deputy Commissioner, Ukhrul, to take extra steps to ensure the safety of passengers on the stretch of NH-202 passing through Ukhrul in view of the tension involving the Nagas and the Kukis since last month.

The attack took place on a day Meira Paibis, the influential women's organisation of the Meiteis, announced a five-day "total shutdown" across Manipur as part of the protest against the killing of two children at Tronglaobi village in Meitei-dominated Bishnupur district on April 7.

Even as Kukis were suspected to be behind the two attacks in Bishnupur and Ukhrul, the Kuki Zo Council on Saturday issued a statement denying the allegation.

"Based on ground-level understanding, the incident appears to be linked to prevailing tensions among certain factional groups... It is regrettable that without proper verification or credible evidence, the blame is hastily attributed on the Kuki-Zo community," it said.

Main suspect in Noida workers' protest arrested from TN: Police

NOIDA, PTI: The Gautam Buddh Nagar Police and the Special Task Force have jointly arrested the main accused in the violent workers' protest in Noida, officials said on Saturday.

The accused, identified as Aditya Anand, was apprehended from Tiruchirappalli Railway Station in Tamil Nadu. He was carrying a reward of Rs 1 lakh and had been absconding since the incident.

Police said Anand was the alleged mastermind behind the violent protests that took place during a labour movement in the Gautam Buddh Nagar area.

A case had been registered against him at the Phase-2 police station, and a non-bailable warrant had also been issued by a local court for his arrest.

Provocative activities

According to officials, Anand was involved in orchestrating provocative activities and inciting violence during labour sit-ins and demonstrations in the district.

Police teams had been conducting raids across multiple states to trace him before finally arresting him in Tamil Nadu.

Further legal proceedings against the accused are underway, police added.

Not national, but distress address: Congress

PM should stop lying to nation & implement 33% reservation: Kharge

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Opposition on Saturday criticised the Prime Minister's address to the nation on women's quota, calling it a "distress address" while insisting that Narendra Modi should apologise for delaying the 2023 women's reservation law instead of targeting his political rivals.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said a "desperate and frustrated" Prime Minister turned his address to the nation into a "political speech, full of mudslinging and outright lies".

"Modi-ji should stop lying to the nation. He should implement 33% reservation for women in the existing 543 Lok Sabha seats under the 2023 law. Do not deny women their due representation now. Stop mixing up the delimitation bills... Stop lying to the nation that this was an amendment to the Women's Reservation Bill... It was not," he said.

Lashing out at Modi for "misusing official machinery" to attack the opposition at a time when the model code of conduct is in place, Kharge said the delimitation bill was brought in to "create further division and redraw the electoral map in a manner that can only benefit the BJP".

"Modi-ji mentioned Congress 59 times and women barely a few times. That tells the country everything about his priorities. Women are not the BJP's priority. Congress is, because Congress stands on the right side of history," he said.

Congress General Secretary (Communications) Jairam Ramesh said Modi ended his speech by saying that there was a *waqt ka intezaar* (wait for the right time) for women's quota but he should know that there is "no need for a *muhurat* (auspicious time)" to give India's women their due.

Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha floor leader Derek O'Brien said, "Narendra, the worst form of insulting women is to have used them as a decoy to try and pass the Delimitation Bill."

Former Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi said it was "deeply disappointing" to hear the Prime Minister make no assurance of delinking the 2023 Act from Census and delimitation so as to make it implementable as passed by all parties in 2029 itself.

MANOJ JHA
RJD Rajya Sabha MP

"To uphold the dignity of both the EC and the office of the PM, such speeches delivered using government resources should be included in the poll expenses of party concerned, that is, BJP.

BINOY VISWAM
CPI state secretary

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi should apologise to women across the country for keeping the Women's Reservation Act in "cold storage" after it was passed in 2023.

Big victory for democracy: Priyanka on delimitation bill defeat

Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Saturday said the Opposition defeated the intent of the Modi government's plans to "permanently cling to power" in the guise of empowering women, calling the defeat of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, in Lok Sabha a "victory" for the Constitution and unity in the I.N.D.I.A bloc, reports DHNS from New Delhi.

Addressing a press conference after Parliament adjourned sine die, Priyanka reiterated the Opposition demand for rolling out the women's reservation in Lok Sabha and Assemblies on the basis of the current strength of the Lok Sabha while claiming that the formula put forward by the government was unacceptable to them.

Priyanka Gandhi

She said it was clear from the outset that it was not about women's quota but delimitation, which will be conducted in a way that "ignores caste data and allows complete arbitrariness", and it was "impossible" for the Opposition to support this. "I am very happy that the country saw how a united opposition can defeat them," she said.

The press conference by fielding Priyanka made it clear that the Congress is not leaving any stone unturned in the narrative war against the BJP, which is accusing the Opposition of being "anti-women" in opposing the Bill. Other Opposition parties will also be holding similar press conferences.

Asked about the BJP campaign, she said, "the public is intelligent. Times have changed. Media campaigns and PR no longer work like before. People can see the truth. No one can rely on Amit Shah's assurances in Lok Sabha."

Bills backlash: PM intensifies offensive against Oppn

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A day after the Opposition defeated the constitutional amendment bill, Prime Minister Narendra Modi ratcheted up the offensive against the Congress-led I.N.D.I.A bloc, asking his Cabinet colleagues to ensure that the bloc "pays the price".

Narendra Modi

Calling the Opposition's stand "anti-women", Modi said after making a mistake during the Bill's voting on Friday, the Opposition was trying to make amends, but that they would face the wrath of women voters.

In Parliament, after the Lok Sabha was adjourned sine die, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju told reporters that the defeat of the three Bills should not be seen as BJP's defeat.

"With their anti-women mindset, the way the Congress and other alliance leaders did not allow the Bills to be passed, we are sad about it. The loss will be borne by the women of the country. We tried to give women their share in running the country as well as Vidhan Sabhas. This cannot be seen as our government's loss but as an attack on our country's politics," Rijiju said.

Delhi Police detained MPs Bansuri Swaraj and Raksha Khadse after they carried out a protest outside Rahul Gandhi's house.

Among other prominent BJP leaders was Smriti Irani, who said women would remember that the 33% reservation bill was passed by the BJP government while the Congress failed them.

Ravi Shankar Prasad said under the Constitution, any readjustment of the Lok Sabha or the Vidhan Sabha seat after census can only be done by delimitation by the delimitation committee.

"After the 2001 Census, it was decided during Atal Ji's government that delimitation would remain suspended until the first census after 2026, so that southern states would not be disadvantaged due to population difference," the BJP leader said.

Oppn: Another impeachment notice against CEC soon

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Opposition is planning to submit a second notice seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, days after the Lok Sabha Speaker and the Rajya Sabha Chairperson on April 6 rejected notices accusing him of "partisan and discriminatory" conduct.

Gyanesh Kumar

Sources said parties were working on the notices to be submitted in the next couple of days. They said a decision on whether to submit in the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha or both was yet to be made. Signatures would be collected accordingly.

The Opposition plans to get the signatures of at least 200 Lok Sabha members and around 80 Rajya Sabha members this time, in a bid to make a "statement".

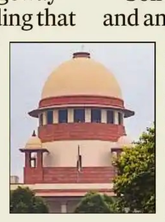
The Constitutional requirement for a notice seeking the CEC's removal is 100 signatures in the Lok Sabha and 50 in the Rajya Sabha. In the notices submitted on March 12, steered by Trinamool Congress, the Opposition had 130 LS signatures and 63 RS signatures.

ACCIDENT FALLOUT

SC bars heavy vehicles from parking on highways

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has said no heavy vehicle should be parked or stopped on any national highway carriageway except at a designated bay, holding that the "safety of a commuter" was an integral facet of "right to live with dignity" under Article 21 of the Constitution.



In its directions to address the systemic flaws at the national highways (NHs) and expressways, a bench of Justices J K Maheshwari and Atul S Chandurkar said: "The right to life is enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution is not merely a guarantee against the unlawful taking of life, but a positive mandate upon the State to ensure a safe environment where human life is preserved and valued."

The court underscored the safety of the commuter as an integral facet of the right to live with dignity and a constitutional obligation under Article 21.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and amicus curiae A N S Nadkarni gave suggestions indicating the nature of interim directions that could be considered for being issued during the pendency of suo motu proceedings.

The bench invoked Article 142 to pass the order in the suo motu case after two tragic highway accidents: one in Rajasthan's Phalodi, where a tempo traveller slammed into a stationary truck, and another in Telangana's Rangareddy, where a passenger bus collided with a gravel-carrying truck.

In its interim directions, the court said no heavy or commercial vehicle would be parked or stopped on any national highway carriageway or paved shoulder except at a designated bay, lay-by, or wayside amenity.

Real-time alerts

The enforcement should be effected through the Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) real-time alerts to the state police, GPS with time-stamped photographic evidence, and integrated eChallan generation, it said.

"These directions must be complied with by the officials and personnel of the National Highway Authority of India, the state police, and state transport departments," the bench said

"The district magistrates of the concerned districts shall set up a standard operating procedure for this purpose as regards periodical inspections and patrolling by all these authorities," it ordered.

HC stays action in Rahul citizenship case

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

A day after directing registration of an FIR against Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi in the dual citizenship case, the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court on Saturday stayed its own order, stating that the matter should not be decided without hearing the other party.

The court fixed April 20 for further hearing of the matter.

The Court, in its order, referred to an earlier judgment of the full bench of the court and said that notice should be given to the other party before passing any order.

A single bench of Justice Subhash Vidyarthi had on Friday ordered registration of an FIR against Rahul while allowing a petition filed by Karnataka BJP worker Shishir Vignesh challenging the order of the special MP/MLA Court which had, in January this year, rejected his petition seeking revocation of Rahul's Indian citizenship and registration of an FIR against the Congress MP, who he claimed was also a British citizen.

Rahul Gandhi

The HC had said in its order that the matter needed to be investigated and that the investigation might be conducted by the state government or by a central agency.

Earlier in January this year, a special MP/MLA court here had rejected a petition seeking revocation of the Congress leader's Indian citizenship and registration of an FIR against him.

The lower court had said that it did not have jurisdiction in the matter and also added that the petition was a misuse of the judicial process.

The petitioner, Shishir Vignesh, a BJP leader from Karnataka, had contended that Rahul was a British citizen. He claimed that he was in possession of documents that supported his contention.

The petitioner had also sought registration of an FIR against Rahul, as well as revocation of his Indian citizenship.

A woman covers her face to protect herself from the scorching sun on a hot day, in Prayagraj, on Saturday. PTI

AIADMK just mask, BJP wants to install 'puppet CM' in TN to listen to Modi

DH DECCAN HERALD

Political Theatre

The 2026 Assembly polls is a fight between one family that exploits the state and Tamil Nadu

Poll vault

Teacher's pitch

Dr J Amalorpavanathan, a renowned vascular surgeon and the driving force behind TRANSTAN, has in recent days been going door to door in the Thousand Lights constituency, canvassing for DMK candidate Ezhilan Naganathan, who is seeking re-election. The reason is personal: Ezhilan was once his student in medical college. "Ezhilan is my student. Please vote for him," Amalorpavanathan tells voters, accompanied by his son, Dr Chandiran Joseph.

E T B SIVAPRIYAN, CHENNAI

Meet the leader

Sowmiya Anbumani
PMK
Dharmapuri

Sowmiya, the wife of PMK leader R Anbumani, has long worked for her husband and the party from the sidelines. She has continued to head Pasumai Thayagam, an environmental NGO founded by her father-in-law S Ramadoss, since 2005.

Sowmiya rose to political prominence when she was named the PMK candidate for the Dharmapuri seat in 2024, in the Vanniyar heartland. Despite an intensive campaign, she lost by 21,300 votes to DMK's A Mani in a closely fought three-cornered contest. She is now set to contest from the Dharmapuri Assembly constituency.

Following the Lok Sabha defeat, Sowmiya's prominence within the PMK has grown, particularly after the party split over differences between Anbumani and his father Ramadoss. The PMK is currently controlled by Anbumani, who commands the support of most office-bearers and elected legislators, though Ramadoss continues to contest that position.

She has also emerged as one of the PMK's key campaigners at a time when the party's influence among its core Vanniyar vote base, a dominant community spread across North and Central Tamil Nadu, has been waning.

Sowmiya also comes from a political family. Her maternal grandfather, 'Thalapathy' K Vinayagam, was among those who, along with Tamil nationalist Ma Po Sivagnanam, played a key role in efforts to retrieve parts of Tamil Nadu that were annexed to Andhra Pradesh during the bifurcation of the erstwhile Madras State in the 1950s.

Her father, M Krishnasamy, served two terms as a Lok Sabha MP, and her brother, M K Vishnu Prasad, is currently the MP from the Cuddalore constituency.

Trivia

The last Congress chief minister of West Bengal, Sidhartha Shankar Ray, was a legal luminary and a close advisor to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Few people know that Ray was also the principal attorney for the All India Muslim Personal Law Board. He offered his services pro bono to the Board and would often travel to Lucknow when the Babri Masjid title suit was being heard by the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court.

VOTER CONNECT

TMC candidate for Sainthia constituency Nilabati Saha interacts with an elderly woman during an election campaign ahead of West Bengal Assembly polls in Birbhum district on Saturday. PTI

Fortress tribunals: Voters seek appeal status, only to be turned away

19 tribunals are deciding appeals filed by lakhs disenfranchised by SIR

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
KOLKATA, DHNS

Rafika Bibi waits outside SPM-NIWAS at Joka, Kolkata, to know the status of the appeals she filed before the tribunal to regain her right to vote. PHOTO CREDIT: JAYANTA SHAW

Rafika Bibi left her home in Bethuadahri in West Bengal's Nadia district early in the morning and travelled by bus with her daughter and son-in-law to Joka in South Kolkata, where, at the Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation (SPM-NIWAS), a tribunal would decide if she could get back on the electoral rolls.

WEST BENGAL
Assembly Poll

"I filed an appeal after I found that they had struck me off the electoral rolls due to a mismatch in my name's spelling," said Rafika, adding: "I have come here to see what happened to my appeal and whether I will be able to vote."

The police and paramilitary personnel guarding the institute run by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, however, did not let her in. "They told me I will be notified when a decision is made," she said.

Samir Das, a retired government employee, came to Joka from Bangaon in the North 24 Parganas. "My son and I are among the deleted voters. We filed appeals online. I came to know how we can check the status of our appeals."

The 19 tribunals set up to decide on the appeals filed by lakhs of people disenfranchised by the Election Commission's special intensive revision (SIR) of voter rolls in the poll-bound state started working from the SPM-NIWAS early this week.

Though the appeals could be filed online or offline at the subdivisional or district headquarters across the state, some anxious deleted voters turned up in front of the institute, only to be turned away.

Mohammed Rabiul Islam Molla has five siblings, and the EC flagged them as cases of "logical discrepancy". He and his siblings were called for hearings. "We submitted all the necessary documents to prove that we were all born to the same parents. They still deleted two of us—I and one of my brothers," he said.

He had almost reconciled with not being able to vote on April 29, as the electoral rolls had already been frozen for Basirhat and other constituencies, which would go to polls in the second phase, on April 9.

The rolls for the constituencies, which would go to the polls in the first phase on April 23, had been frozen on April 6.

However, the Supreme Court's latest order has opened a small window for deleted voters like Rafika Bibi and Rabiul Islam. The apex court said on Thursday that electors cleared by the tribunals, even up to two days before polling for both phases, would still be allowed to vote. "The Supreme Court order raised hopes. That's why I came to enquire about my case," said Rabiul.

The state's Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Agarwala said supplementary electoral rolls would be published on April 21 and 27, as per the SC order.

Around 63.66 lakh voters—nearly 8.3% of the electorate—had been deleted from the rolls across West Bengal till February 28. Over 60.06 lakh others were placed "under adjudication", and their eligibility to remain on the electoral rolls was subjected to scrutiny by judicial officers.

The EC data showed that over 27.16 lakh of these 60.06 lakh voters had been struck off the rolls, while more than 32.68 lakh had been included in the electoral rolls.

The number of appeals filed before the tribunals so far has not been made public officially. However, according to the EC sources, more than half of the people struck off the rolls after adjudication have done so.

The 19 tribunals, headed by retired judges, are likely to take weeks to decide on all the pleas for restoration of the voting rights, and only a handful of the people stripped of the right to vote can hope to get it back before voting.

Scan QR code to watch video

"If the tribunal puts my name back on the list, how will I know?" Manowara Bibi from Karimpur in Nadia asked the security personnel after they stopped her from entering SPM-NIWAS.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman, who came from Jamalpur in Purba Bardhaman, said before leaving for home, "I think I would have to go to the polling booth on April 29 itself and check with the poll officials if I can vote."

OPS faces uphill task in AIADMK stronghold

Former CM has to bank on DMK clout even after hat-trick victory

FROM THE GROUND

E T B SIVAPRIYAN,
BODINAYYAKANNUR (TAMIL NADU), DHNS

OPS with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK chief MK Stalin

DERIVED STRENGTH

- Bodinayyakannur has been a traditional stronghold of AIADMK
- OPS does not enjoy much personal clout and derived his power from AIADMK's strength
- OPS has to bank on DMK's support base and hectic campaigning
- DMK cadres say they will support OPS unconditionally

O Panneerselvam is a familiar face in Bodinayyakannur, a picturesque constituency nestled in the Western Ghats, where he scored a hat-trick victory since the 2011 Assembly elections.

However, this April 23 election, the three-time chief minister, who co-headed AIADMK for five years, faces an uphill task — convincing the electorate to vote for him on DMK's 'Rising Sun' symbol, not AIADMK's iconic 'Two Leaves' symbol.

He switched loyalties to DMK after his pleas to rejoin AIADMK failed.

Bodinayyakannur has been a traditional stronghold of AIADMK, which still has a strong base of loyal voters. Sample this. OPS visited the house of 34-year-old Dinesh in Sadayalpatti village to wish him after his wedding, but the young AIADMK voter won't vote for him.

"The loyalty is to the AIADMK and the Two Leaves symbol. I will vote only for Narayanasamy, not OPS," Dinesh told *DH* outside a tea shop in Bodinayyakannur.

Raghuvaran (42) is explicit. "My grandfather told my father to vote for AIADMK and my father obeyed. My father asked me to do the same and I will vote only for the AIADMK. I like OPS as an individual but since he is now a DMK nominee, why should I vote for him?"

OPS is pitted against AIADMK's V T Narayanasamy, who was pushed to the third slot in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls by AMMK's T T V Dhinakaran.

Despite being a three-time CM, OPS does not enjoy much personal clout and derived his power from AIADMK's strength. People not only blame him for not developing the backward district but also say that he kept losing his aides to Palaniswami because of his indecisiveness.

Caste equations are also not promising for OPS with Piramalai Kallars, a sub-sect of Thevars, likely to come back to the AIADMK's fold this time and Naidus also supporting the party overwhelmingly with Narayanasamy belonging to the community.

However, DMK's support base in the region and hectic campaigning might prove helpful. "To say OPS did nothing is wrong. He didn't do enough, that's all... He didn't join DMK immediately and waited for three years, but EPS wasn't willing to take him back," said Arumugam, a voter.

DMK cadres say they will support OPS unconditionally.

Amid this poll cacophony, one can also hear different tunes, such as that of Thirukkumaran (54), who said, "I have always voted for the AIADMK but this time, I might vote for Vijay. Let there be a change."

Thalapathy's whistle makes ripples in Kanniyakumari

FROM THE GROUND

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
KANNIYAKUMARI, DHNS

By the time the sun rises, the seashores of Kanniyakumari on the southern tip of India will be busy with activities—tourists enjoying the sunrise, fishermen busy bringing fish in boats, and traders engaged in fish auctions.

Even as the people are least interested in discussing politics, the entry of the actor-turned-politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) into the electoral fray has changed the scenario.

Kanniyakumari, the meeting place of three seas, is now witnessing a triangular contest in many parts. Out of the six Assembly constituencies in the district, four are now with Congress-DMK, while two are with BJP-AIADMK. The crucial question doing the rounds is whether TVK would split DMK-Congress votes.

"Vijay's party is indeed gaining much support, which was very well reflected in his recent roadshow here. People thronged to see 'Thalapathy', and youths and women were very excited. Hence, DMK and AIADMK can't ignore TVK," says Thomas, a local trader at Kanyakumari.

It is not just Vijay's fanfare that matters, but communal issues too, as he could make considerable influence among

TVK chief Vijay

TAMIL NADU
Assembly Poll

the Christian vote banks across Kanniyakumari, especially the fishermen community.

"Till recently, many of us were unaware that Vijay's full name is Joseph Vijay Chandrasekhar. It seems the surname 'Joseph' is being highlighted now to connect with the Christian community that comes to around 46% in the district, almost neck and neck with the Hindu population," says Chelappan, a retired government employee.

Vijay's influence could be felt more at Colachal, a thickly populated region of fishermen of the Meenavar community. A local priest who made a call to vote for Congress candidate Tharahai Cuthbert reportedly faced strong resistance from many youngsters. A slew of measures announced by Vijay for fisherfolk have also gone well among the community.

Even as there are political estimates that a split in Christian vote banks among the DMK and with Vijay's TVK may benefit BJP-AIADMK, even local BJP workers are not too optimistic. "TVK will definitely get support from the Meenavar community, especially youth. But that may not hit the prospects of Congress in Colachel as well as nearby Kalliyoor, which has been winning elections with a thumping majority in the region," a BJP supporter in Colachal said.

Congress's decision to field the secretary of the Church of South India's South Kerala diocese secretary T T Praveen, who is a Malayali, at the Vilavancode constituency that shares borders with Kerala, is seen as a strategic move to retain the support of the Nadar community, which has a strong presence in Kanyakumari.

The BJP-AIADMK alliance is pinning high hopes of retaining closely contested Nagercoil and Kanyakumari seats and has fielded sitting MLAs M R Gandhi and Thalavai N Sundaram, respectively.

But DMK-Congress camps are estimating a drift of AIADMK votes to the DMK-Congress in view of issues like the FCRA amendment, as the DMK-Congress is in a much stronger position to take on the BJP than the TVK now.

TVK being a new entrant, many are still uncertain about the extent of its influence in electoral politics. But 'Thalapathy Vijay's' fanfare and party symbol whistle are really helping the party connect easily with the party.

BENGAL SAGA

The seven political lives of Mamata Banerjee

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Five centuries ago, William Shakespeare, in *As You Like It*, described the seven stages of life that every individual passes through.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee—often called the stormy petrel of Indian politics—has, in her own way, crossed seven distinct milestones in her political journey. Most remain vivid in public memory and are captured in iconic images. One, however, played out in the Lok Sabha without a defining photograph.

The giant killer

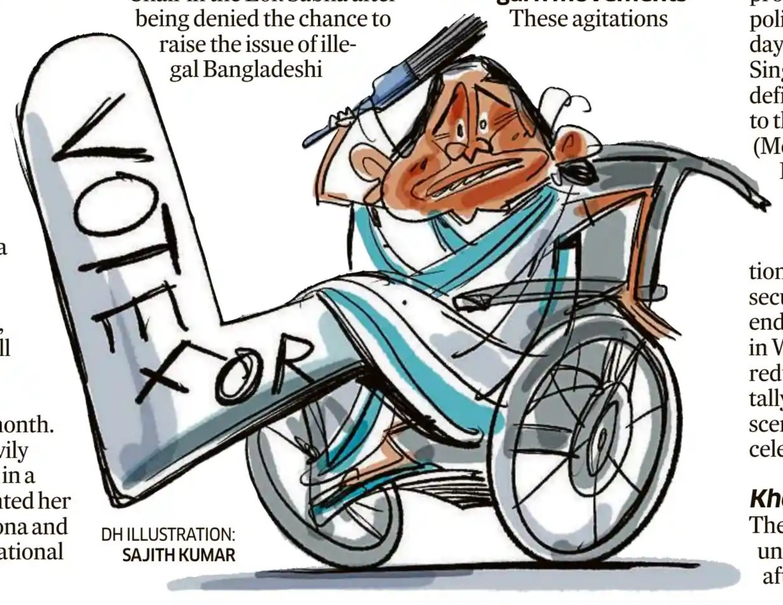
In one of the biggest upsets in Indian politics, Mamata—then a 29-year-old Youth Congress leader—defeated CPM stalwart Somnath Chatterjee from Jadavpur in the 1984 Lok Sabha polls, riding the sympathy wave that took the Congress past the 400-seat mark. It was the only electoral defeat Chatterjee, a 10-time parliamentarian, ever suffered. He later shifted constituencies and returned to the Lok Sabha.

Assault on the street

On August 16, 1990, Mamata, still with the Youth Congress, was attacked by alleged Left-affiliated goons at Hazra Crossing in south Kolkata. Struck on the head with a rod, she sustained a skull fracture and heavy bleeding, and was hospitalised for a month. The image of a heavily bandaged Mamata in a hospital bed cemented her street-fighter persona and catapulted her to national prominence.

Throwing papers in Parliament

In a dramatic moment in August 2005, Mamata, then a lone Trinamool MP, flung a sheaf of papers towards the Chair in the Lok Sabha after being denied the chance to raise the issue of illegal Bangladeshi immigration in West Bengal. She submitted her resignation, but Speaker Somnath Chatterjee rejected it.



DH ILLUSTRATION: SAJITH KUMAR

Singur-Nandigram-Lalgarh movements

These agitations paved her path to power. The first two, Singur and Nandigram, revolved around opposition to the Left government's land acquisition policies, while Lalgarh protests targeted alleged police excesses. Mamata's 26-day hunger strike during the Singur agitation became a defining moment, giving rise to the "Ma-Mati-Manush" (Mother, Motherland and People) slogan.

Parivartan

In the 2011 Assembly elections, the TMC and its allies secured 227 out of 294 seats, ending 34 years of Left rule in West Bengal. The Left was reduced to 62 seats, its lowest tally since 1977, triggering scenes of unprecedented celebration in Kolkata.

Khela Hobe

The politics of Bengal underwent a sea-change after a decade of TMC rule, with the BJP emerging as the principal Opposition party. Mamata was in a tough electoral battle against saffron leader Suvendu Adhikari, her former lieutenant, at Nandigram, where she suffered an accident and broke her leg. The Khela Hobe (game is on) slogan from Mamata in a wheelchair, with a bandaged leg, led to an emphatic Trinamool victory in 2021 with 213 seats and a 48% vote share.

Dual branding

As she battles the BJP in yet another Assembly poll, Mamata shares equal space with her nephew Abhishek Banerjee. The image projects a visual branding of dual leadership. Posters depict her as "Sarbadhinayika" (Supreme Leader) while Abhishek is called "Odhinayak" (Captain).

How will the future unfold? Only time will tell.

POPULISTS RATTLED Allies reassess strategy as Hungary loss exposes vulnerabilities

Orban's defeat punctures Europe's far right, but also offers a roadmap

MARK LANDLER

US Vice President JD Vance wasn't the only right-wing ally whose last-minute pitch for Prime Minister Viktor Orban fell flat. In the weeks before Orban lost power in a landslide election on Sunday, Hungary's faltering populist was also flanked on the campaign trail by far-right leaders from France, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Now, those politicians must reckon with the bruising defeat of a man who was at once their leadership model, intellectual godfather and, in some cases, long-distance financier. What lessons they draw from his defeat could foretell whether the populist, far-right wave keeps rolling across Europe.

With far-right parties in France, Britain and Germany all within striking distance of power, Hungary offers a roadmap for how populist movements can go astray, said Jean-Yves Camus, an expert on the far right at the Jean Jaurès Foundation, a left-leaning think tank in Paris. Orban, he said, was brought down after 16 years in power by voters fed up with his government's corruption, inattention to the economy and ceaseless battles with the European Union. His cosiness with President Donald Trump, embodied by Vance's visit, did nothing to help and may have added to the backlash because of the unpopularity of the US-Israeli war on Iran and the resulting spike in energy costs.

On that last point, there are signs that leaders are taking the lesson to heart. Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni of Italy, whose far-right pedigree and assiduous cultivation of Trump had earned her the reputation of a "Trump whisperer", broke openly with him this week, calling his criticism of Pope Leo XIV over the war "unacceptable". Meloni has also edged away from Trump on the war. She has joined more centrist European leaders, like President Emmanuel Macron of France and Prime Minister Keir Starmer of Britain, in preventing American warplanes from using air bases on European soil as a springboard for offensive strikes on Iran.

Nigel Farage, the leader of Britain's far-right party Reform UK, campaigned for Trump during his three presidential campaigns and was a regular visitor to his Palm Beach estate, Mar-a-Lago, hoping for a return endorsement. As it became clear how unpopular Trump has become in Britain, even among some Reform voters, Farage has gone, by his own description, from fast friend to chance acquaintance. "I happen to know him," he told the Financial Times this week, "but that's by the by." Still, in other ways, analysts said Europe's far-right parties remain vulnerable to the same failings that brought down Orban's Fidesz party. Farage's deputy leader, Richard Tice, has recently been caught up in allegations that his property company failed to pay adequate taxes (Tice has said the dispute is over a "technicality"). "Farage has to be really careful about corruption," said Tim Bale, a professor of politics at Queen Mary University of London.

In France, the leader of the far-right National Rally, Marine Le Pen, is appealing a conviction for embezzling from the European Parliament to fund her party's operations. Unless her appeal succeeds, she will be barred from running for president of France next year. Jordan Bardella, her protégé, is expected to run in her place.

For Le Pen, the defeat of Orban deprives her not only of a stalwart ally but also of a potential source of funding. In 2022, at a time when Le Pen's last presidential campaign was in financial trouble, she obtained a loan of 10.7 million euros ($12.5 million) from a Hungarian bank part-owned by a friend of Orban's. Orban supported her after her conviction, and Le Pen linked arms with him before his defeat at what was billed as a rally of "Patriots of Europe".

A year before the presidential election, Le Pen and Bardella still lead all rivals in opinion polls. But a far-right victory no longer seems foreordained. A recent poll that pitted Bardella against the leading centre-right candidate, Édouard Philippe, in a runoff found that Philippe led by 52% to 48%, the first time in several months that Bardella was not the frontrunner. "They have lost something really important," said Ben Ansell, a professor of comparative democratic institutions at the University of Oxford. "They have lost a sense of inevitability."

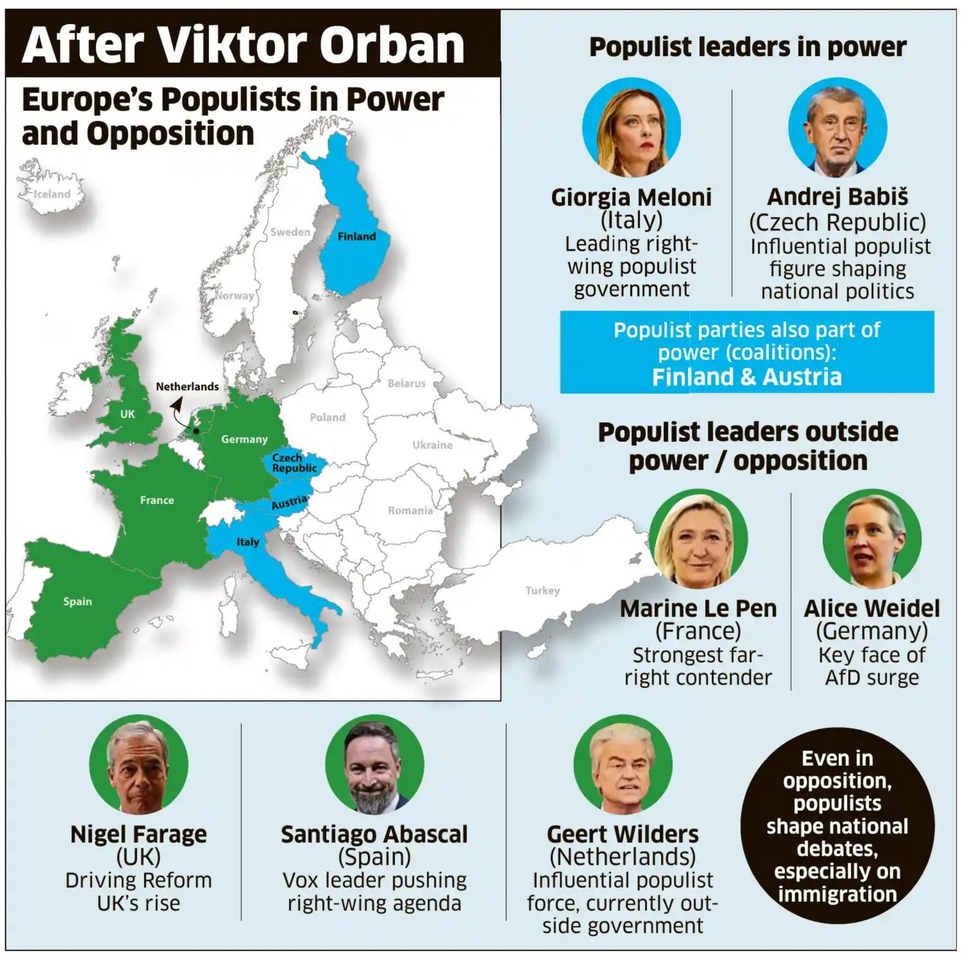
And yet Ansell noted that in France, Germany and other countries, far-right parties still retain one conspicuous advantage: they are insurgents, running against entrenched political interests — the same dynamic that enabled the Hungarian challenger, Peter Magyar, to topple Orban.

In France, the departing president, Macron, is in his ninth year in office, the longest-serving leader of a major European country. In Germany, Chancellor Friedrich Merz has cobbled together a familiar, and unwieldy, coalition of his centre-right Christian Democratic Union with the centre-left Social Democrats — the same two parties that have dominated German politics for decades.

That gives the German far-right party, Alternative for Germany, or AfD, a rich target for its crusade against politics as usual. Some analysts offered a contrarian view: while the AfD, like its right-wing counterparts, allied itself with Orban, the party could use the defeat of a long-standing incumbent to inspire German voters to vote out their own incumbents. For the AfD's base, among disaffected voters in eastern Germany, it might even carry an echo of the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

"They will latch on to whatever narrative is convenient," said Constanze Stelzenmüller, director of the Center on the United States and Europe at the Brookings Institution in Washington. "If they have to, they will latch on to the idea of being the last of the Mohicans."

NYT News Service



WORLD AT A GLANCE

Pope Leo XIV disembarks the papal plane upon his arrival at Quatro de Fevereiro International Airport to begin his apostolic journey to Angola, in Luanda, on Saturday. REUTERS

Pope downplays feud with Trump, says remarks misreported

▸ Pope Leo sought to downplay his feud with US President Donald Trump on Saturday, saying reporting about comments he has made so far during his Africa tour "has not been accurate in all its aspects", Reuters reports.

Speaking to reporters in English aboard his flight to Angola for the third leg of his ambitious 10-day Africa tour, the first US pope said comments he made two days earlier in Cameroon, decrying that the world was being "ravaged by a handful of tyrants", were not aimed at Trump. That speech, said Leo, "was prepared two weeks ago, well before the president ever commented on me and on the message of peace that I am promoting". On Sunday, as Pope Leo prepared to embark on his tour, Trump called him "WEAK on Crime, and terrible for Foreign Policy" in a post on Truth Social. Trump also posted an AI-generated image of himself as a Jesus-like figure, drawing widespread criticism, even from some religious conservatives who typically support him.

Spain, Mexico end colonial spat

▸ With a few choice words and a handshake, Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum laid to rest a diplomatic spat between her government and Spain over their shared colonial past during her visit to Barcelona on Saturday, AP/PTI reports from Barcelona (Spain).

"There is no diplomatic crisis, there never was one," she said upon arrival at the IV Meeting in Defence of Democracy, a gathering of representatives from 15 countries concerned about the rise of illiberalism. "The important thing is to recognise the efforts of the indigenous people of our land," she said, moments before shaking hands with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez. Sheinbaum's participation followed Spain's King Felipe VI moving to ease a longstanding diplomatic dispute when, in March, he publicly acknowledged that the conquest of the Americas had led to the "abuse" of native peoples.

French film star Nathalie Baye, who starred in Steven Spielberg's "Catch Me if You Can," died at the age of 77 on Friday, her family said on Saturday. She died at her home in Paris. AFP FILE

Australia, Japan seal $6.5 billion warship deal

MELBOURNE, AP/PTI: Australia and Japan signed contracts on Saturday for the delivery of the first three of a 10 billion Australian dollar (USD 6.5 billion) fleet of Japanese-designed warships, with the first due within three years.

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries will build the first three Mogami-class frigates in Japan. Australia plans to build another eight at a shipyard in Western Australia.

Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi and his Australian counterpart Richard Marles attended a signing ceremony aboard the Mogami-class frigate JS Kumano, part of the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force, docked off the Australian city of Melbourne. The Kumano had taken part in the recent Exercise Kakadu.

Gunman kills 6 in Kyiv supermarket shooting

Victims include bystanders and shopper

KYIV (UKRAINE), AP/PTI

A gunman who killed at least six people in Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, before taking hostages and barricading himself inside a supermarket on Saturday was shot dead by police, Ukrainian officials said.

Ukraine's special tactical police units stormed the store after attempts to contact the gunman through a negotiator failed, the head of Ukraine's Interior Ministry, Ihor Klymenko, said in a statement on social media. The attacker was killed while resisting arrest, he said. Speaking to reporters at the scene, Klymenko said the gunman had killed four bystanders on the street before entering the supermarket and killing a fifth person. Mayor Vitali Klitschko said a sixth victim, a young woman, died from her injuries in hospital.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy later confirmed that four hostages had been rescued and that at least 14 people had been wounded.

An Associated Press reporter at the scene saw the bodies of victims in the street covered with emergency blankets before they were taken away.

Klymenko said the shooter was born in 1968 but gave no further details about his identity. Police negotiators spoke with the attacker for roughly 40 minutes before storming the building, he said.

Before the gunman was shot, a female police negotiator used a loudspeaker to call out to the assailant, urging him: "The people are not to blame for this. Please let them go, and we will talk with you."

Zelenskyy later wrote on social media that the shooter was born in Russia and had lived in Ukraine's eastern city of Donetsk for a "long time". He also said the attacker had set fire to his apartment before going into the street armed.

Probe ordered after 10 US scientists go missing or die

WASHINGTON, PTI

The deaths or disappearances of at least 10 top US scientists and researchers with access to information related to aerospace, defence and extraterrestrial life have triggered a row, prompting the administration to order a probe.

Earlier this week, US President Donald Trump was briefed on the deaths and disappearances of key scientists, with more details expected over the next week and a half.

According to reports in the American media, the earliest of the deaths dates back to July 2023. Michael David Hicks, a Nasa Jet Propulsion Laboratory physicist who specialised in comets and asteroids, died on July 30, 2023. The cause of his death was not disclosed. Congressman Eric Burlison, a Republican from Missouri and a member of the House Oversight Committee, said he has been drawing attention to some of the disappearances for some time, as he found them "too coincidental".

The lawmaker argued the fate of the scientists is almost "certainly" linked to the access some had to classified aerospace, defence and UFO information, and may involve actors from China, Russia or Iran.

Burlison said some scientists "literally just disappeared" without a trace, including Air Force Maj Gen William McCasland, who vanished in February.

SU DO KU X - 3890

5		1	2					
	4				6			
	7						8	
4		7				8		1
		6		8	5			9
			4					
					9			
	9				2	6		
	6				1			2

SOLUTION TO 3889

5	2	3	1	6	9	8	7	4
7	1	8	4	2	3	5	9	6
9	6	4	5	8	7	1	2	3
4	3	2	8	9	5	7	6	1
6	5	1	3	7	4	2	8	9
8	7	9	2	1	6	3	4	5
2	4	6	7	3	1	9	5	8
1	8	5	9	4	2	6	3	7
3	9	7	6	5	8	4	1	2

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

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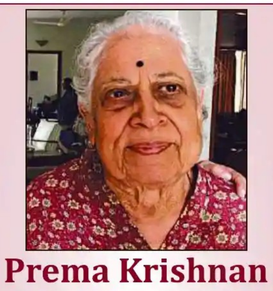


Prema Krishnan
May 15, 1935 - April 9, 2026

We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of our mother, **Prema Krishnan**, age 90, wife of late Natarajan Krishnan, daughter of Mr and Mrs CM Swamy of High Grounds, Bangalore. She will be dearly missed by her family, friends and the wider community she touched profoundly.

US renews sanctions waiver for purchase of Russian oil

WASHINGTON, PTI: The US has extended by a month a sanctions waiver allowing countries to buy petroleum products from Russia, days after it had ruled out renewing the special measure.

The US Department of the Treasury issued an order late on Friday extending the waiver for Russian oil already at sea on or before April 17 through to May 16. Earlier, the US had granted an exemption from sanctions to India for buying Russian oil for a month beginning March 5. A few days later, a similar waiver was extended to several other countries, which ended on April 11.

The general licence issued by the US on Friday does not authorise any transaction involving a person, entity or joint venture located in Iran, North Korea, Cuba, or parts of Ukraine. On Wednesday, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Washington would not renew the waiver for Russian oil, as well as another for Iranian oil.

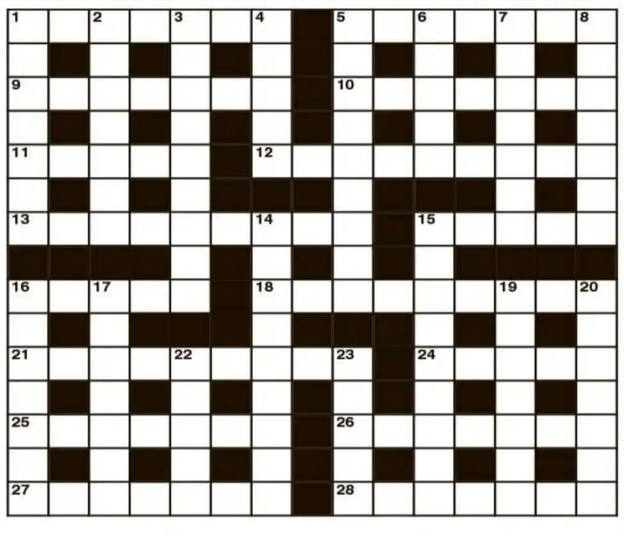
The previous waiver had made available 140 million barrels of Russian oil already loaded on ships to global markets.

Titanic life jacket sells for 670,000 pounds

LONDON, AP/PTI: A life jacket worn by a passenger on the RMS Titanic as she escaped the sinking steamship on a lifeboat sold at auction on Saturday for 670,000 pounds.

The flotation device was worn by Laura Mabel Francatelli, a first-class passenger on the doomed ocean liner, and is signed by her and other survivors. It was the standout item in a sale of Titanic memorabilia by Henry Aldridge & Son in Devizes, western England, and sold to an unidentified telephone bidder for well above the presale estimate.

◆ SUNDAY CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 2676 ◆



ACROSS
1 Riot control weapon (4,3)
5 A betrayal (7)
9 Institution for higher education (7)
10 Parallel of latitude zero degrees (7)
11 Sudden bright light (5)
12 Very closely like the original (2,3,4)
13 Baltic country (9)
15 Sound uttered by sheep (5)
16 The least amount (5)
18 Resemble by heredity (4,5)
21 As a normal rule (2,7)
24 Criminal deception (5)
25 Involve deeply (7)
26 Living in water (7)
27 Science of artillery (7)
28 To be expected (7)

DOWN
1 Diplomatic (7)
2 Not less than (2,5)
3 Racing dog (9)
4 Consumed (5)
5 Flatter to persuade (5-4)
6 Parasitic insect (5)
7 Rough draft of plan (7)
8 Tease cruelly (7)
14 Disrepute (9)
15 Produce results (4,5)
16 Radiant (7)
17 Prescribed way of life and diet (7)
19 Towing vehicle (7)
20 Far-reaching (7)
22 Coolness in danger (5)
23 Commit to memory (5)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 4036

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 9, As a result 10, In the main 12, L-or-E 13, Assail 14, Flat-ten 15, Drop scone 17, Con-course 18, O-per-at- E 19, Sen-try 20, Ac-H-e 23, Child star 25, Sees AB-out 26, To-me 27, Mo(on)-rose 29, Fur-long 32, For-age cap 34, War on want 35, Gondola 36, S-he-ets 37, Her-O 38, Rush light 39, Clo-se do-wn.
DOWN: 1, Failed to 2, Fair to medium 3, Outshone 4, St-rafe 5, Billy-can 6, Staff nurse 7, Se-nat-or (rev.) 8, In any event 11, A-stir 16, Stands 19, (gni)Sir(pu) (rev.) 21, Chocolate box 22, Ma-tro-n 23, Cut a figure 24, Took charge 25, S-he 28, Oppos-it-e 29, First row 30, Get round 31, Ign-OB-le 33, Rings 34, Wrench.

EASY
ACROSS: 9, Makeshift 10, Mistletoe 12, Nape 13, Mirage 14, Elevate 15, Blindness 17, Deterrent 18, Egghead 19, Modest 20, Hare 23, Scorching 25, Dissident 26, Leek 27, Berate 29, Missing 32, Magnitude 34, Saccharin 35, Netball 36, Target 37, Star 38, Exploiter 39, Dreamboat.
DOWN: 1, Amenable 2, Skipping rope 3, Dividend 4, Strays 5, Embedded 6, Asbestosis 7, Algebra 8, Resentment 11, Trace 16, Drench 19, Mug 21, Amelioration 22, Kitsch 23, Salamander 24, Inequality 25, Doe 28, Aperture 29, Machetes 30, Generate 31, Disavow 33, Get-up 34, Stride.

THE Z FACTOR

What the space missions are teaching me

Mohamed Zeeshan
is a student of all things global and, self-confessedly, master of none, notwithstanding his Columbia Master's, a stint with the UN and with monarchs in the Middle East

@ZeeMohamed_

This past week, amid distressing news on wars, blockades, and a personal setback, I paused and reflected in awe over images from NASA's Artemis II space mission. Over ten days, four astronauts travelled around the moon and back, taking humans further away from Earth than ever before.

Space missions don't hold the same political import today that they enjoyed in the 1960s during the Cold War space race. The economics are often too prohibitive. Each launch of the rocket and capsule in Artemis missions costs over $4 billion. Why should the public support such expensive endeavours at a time of economic volatility?

There are several reasons. The main reason, best articulated, is that each space mission develops technology that improves the quality of life on Earth. Everything from memory foam to water filters, scratch-resistant lenses and cordless tools has arisen from NASA inventions.

The other reason, less discussed, is that each time humans fly far into space, it puts life on Earth into perspective. Looking at images of Earth from space is both a terrifying and a humbling experience. The universe is vast, lonely, and intimidating. We are small, tiny and effectively powerless – huddled up together in a pretty fragile environment on this planet.

Cosmic chaos could potentially end things at any time. Amidst large celestial bodies constantly flying at speeds beyond our comprehension, Earth has taken a few hits itself in the past. Some of those strikes have wiped out entire species and sometimes rendered earth – or at least parts of it – uninhabitable.

Yet, thankfully, by the gracious laws of physics – which are mysteriously designed as they are – almost all particles in outer space follow predictable patterns. Planets and moons move in fixed orbits at fixed speeds via fixed forces, making missions such as Artemis possible.

As Albert Einstein once put it: "Everything is determined, the beginning as well as the end, by forces over which we have no control. It is determined for the insect as well as for the star. Human being, vegetables or cosmic dust, we all dance to an invisible tune, intoned in the distance by a mysterious player."

Effectively, whether billionaires or paupers, bosses or employees, the laws of physics suggest that none of us is truly a master of our own destiny. Taken in the context of the cosmos, all of us are a tiny fraction of the totality of reality – a tiny part of something trillions of times bigger than all of us combined. As Einstein explains, "We can do what we wish, but we can only wish what we must."

In the same spirit, for some reason, all of us have been chosen to live on the oddest cosmic object yet discovered. The reason life has not yet been found outside of Earth is that Earth is bizarre. It has tolerable temperatures, a beautiful atmosphere, and a blue sky that is – quite mindbogglingly – no more than an optical illusion which allows for brightness through the scattering of light. The reliable patterns of water, wind, and wave currents further facilitate organic life.

Why was Earth chosen to sustain life? Was this random or by divine design? What if life on Earth ended? Will it take root on a different planet?

Regardless of the answers to these questions, one truth feels inescapable: Whatever misery or triumph each of us might currently be facing, all of it is utterly temporary and insignificant in the context of both the vastness of outer space and the long time horizons across which it exists.

But what then is the point of this sermon? The vastness of the universe surely does not negate our feelings about ourselves.

It certainly does not, but one can't help but feel that it is almost churlish and immature for any human being to pretend that they are the dominant lords of the universe – or that they alone can determine the course of history.

The truth about outer space is that if the Earth as we know it disappeared tomorrow, the universe would continue as if nothing had happened. All of us live on an extremely tiny and irrelevant planet, in a solar system that is only one among billions like itself, in a galaxy that is one among trillions like itself. And on this tiny planet, creatures live by being dependent on each other – or they wouldn't live at all.

SARKARI SECRETS

You must divulge, we shan't disclose

Last week, country-wide field operations for listing households began under the much-delayed census exercise. Government-appointed enumerators are visiting our homes to ask 33 questions about the condition of our dwellings, the nature of building materials used, the name, age and sex of people living together, access to water and electricity, cooking facilities, type of toilets and sewage outlets constructed, and our ownership of assets like radio, TV, computer, vehicles, and telephones. They will also ask what foodgrain we eat.

Under the 1948 Census Act, we are obligated to answer these questions to the best of our knowledge. Intentionally refusing to answer or giving false answers invites a fine of up to Rs 1,000 or imprisonment for up to three years.

Next year, they will quiz us about caste affiliation. Ironically, the report of the 2011 Socio-Economic Caste Census has never been made public. Now, the government has told a prominent English daily that the materials on the basis of which the Union Cabinet has decided to count people's caste claims, once again, cannot be revealed under RTI. When this decision to include caste as a census category was announced last April, I had sought the relevant Cabinet note put up for discussion. The Cabinet Secretariat denied access, citing Section 8(1)(i) of the RTI Act, which protects pre-decisional cabinet confidentiality. People do not have the right to know if they can name their caste themselves or will have to choose from a list that the government might compile, at least not yet.

The 21-year-old RTI regime covers the entire State apparatus from village panchayats to Rashtrapati Bhawan, where the Cabinet Secretariat was housed until this February. Our transparency law is one of the few in the world which mandate the disclosure of all materials that form the basis of Cabinet decision-making, after the matter is complete and over. Nevertheless, bureaucrats are arbitrating what we, the citizenry, may be told about the working of the country's top-most executive decision-making body. There are no adverse legal consequences for their opacity.

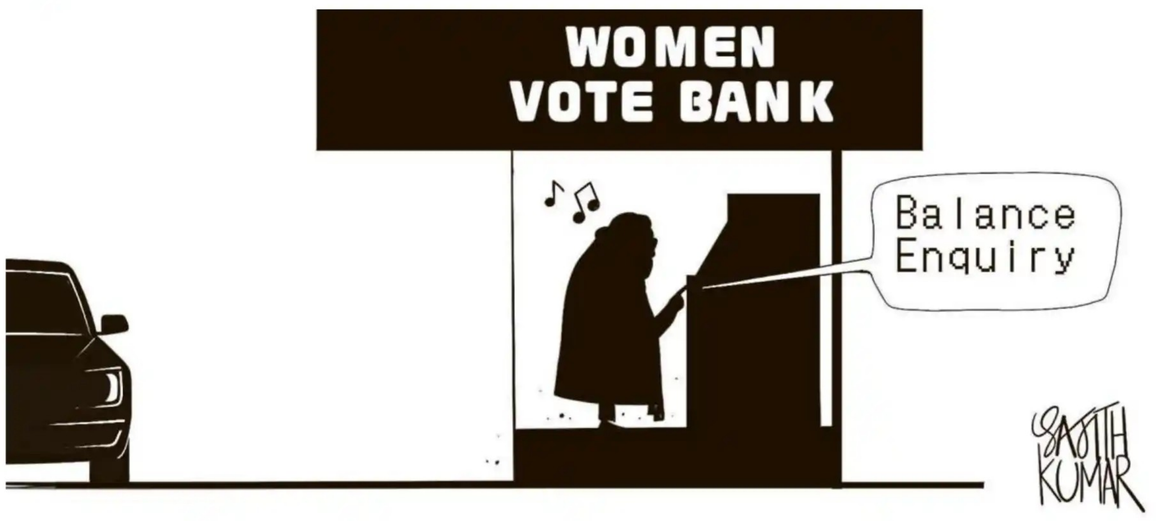
Venkatesh Nayak
wakes up every morning thinking someone somewhere is hiding something

Of course, press notes are often released about major decisions taken in the weekly or special Cabinet meetings. But for more than a decade, little else is revealed – be it the agenda items, or the notes which contain details of the proposals put up for the Cabinet's approval and which ministry said what about each proposal, or matters which were sent back for reconsideration.

Things were much better a decade ago, when Cabinet notes were released in response to RTI applications. This is how we got to know that the nodal department for RTI implementation under the Prime Minister was initially excluded from the inter-ministerial consultations over introducing new exemption clauses through the now-shelved Nuclear Safety Regulatory Authority Bill. Similarly, it is through the enforced disclosure of Cabinet notes that we learned how and why the CBI got itself excluded from RTI. The government's stance that citizens cannot have an absolute right to blow the whistle on internal corruption and wrongdoing was also revealed when amendments were proposed to the stillborn Whistleblowers Protection Act.

But of late, queries about decisions taken to weaken Cabinet oversight and departmental accountability are being rejected. For example, I had sought Cabinet documents relating to the decision taken recently to exempt prior approval by the Union Cabinet for international agreements and MoUs which our ministers and *babus* sign during foreign visits. I had also queried last year's decision to remove the requirement of reporting to the Cabinet details of work done by the departments every month, under the Transaction of Business Rules. The Cabinet Secretariat refused information by not only invoking Section 8(1)(i) but also Article 74(2) of the Constitution, which prohibits courts from inquiring into the advice tendered by ministers to the President. This is despite the Supreme Court's crystal-clear case law stating that the bar applies only to the ministerial advice given, not to the materials on which it is based.

Interestingly, data published by the Central Information Commission shows the use of the Cabinet-related RTI exemption nearly doubled last year, from 396 to 654 cases. Public authorities under the Finance Ministry used it more than 300 times. In the world's largest democracy, the government wants to know more about citizens' affairs. But records of the work done by the country's top-most 'panchayat' are locked up as *sarkari* secrets in cabinets (I saw their manner of storage during an RTI inspection), in perpetuity.



THE DIGITAL ALARMIST

Races, not cultures, will clash in future wars

In his influential book, *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, Harvard political scientist Samuel Huntington posited that any future wars between Western powers and Eastern nations would occur along religious lines.

Huntington argued that, after the fall of the Soviet Union, Islam would become the biggest obstacle to Western (i.e. Christian) domination of the world. Consequently, the West's next major war would inevitably be with Islam. He opined that culture, rather than the political ideologies characterising nation-states, would play a more significant role in future wars, and that Western nations would lose their predominant roles in world affairs if they failed to recognise the irreconcilable nature of cultural tensions stemming from differing religious beliefs. He firmly believed in a Western culture rooted in Christianity. His implicit definition of Western culture does include the cultures of Russia and Eastern Europe, the emergence of Communism notwithstanding.

Huntington argued that the post-Cold War shift in geopolitical organisation and structure would require Western nations to strengthen themselves culturally. He conveniently ignored the role race played in his breakdown, along religious lines, of various civilisations across the globe.

That he was a closet, if not avowed, racist can be gleaned from his role as adviser to the apartheid regime in South Africa in the early 1980s. To quell the anti-apartheid protests in the country, he recommended that the government resort to deceit and duplicity and feign ignorance.

Huntington's book was published in 1996, after the fall of the Soviet Union and the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and well before China's ascendancy as a global and military power. Was Huntington being prescient? Not really, since he has always been an advocate of western domination of the world,

Roger Marshall
is a computer scientist, a newly minted Luddite and a cynic

not unlike Henry Kissinger, also a Harvard product, whose domino theory of communist regimes resulted in America's disastrous interventions in Southeast Asia – mostly Vietnam, but to some extent in Laos and Cambodia as well – aided and abetted by Thailand, a Buddhist monarchy, and Philippines, once a US colony.

After 9/11, Huntington's political philosophy seems to have taken root in foreign policy and national policy think tanks in Washington DC, London, Paris, and other European capitals. The crackdown on migrants with Islamic backgrounds, America's global war on terror, the two Iraq wars and, most recently, the savage attack on Iran (it is hard to forget that 185 innocent schoolgirls were killed by US missile strikes and harder yet to justify the absence of accountability for what is a war crime) would seem to suggest this is the case. That India is falling prey to such a mindset is unfortunate.

Instead of a clash of civilisations, what I see on the horizon is a clash of races, one that would involve Australia, Canada, the European Union, New Zealand, Russia, and the US – countries, majority white and Christian, arrayed against the non-white, non-Christian nations of India and China, only two countries with economies and military assets large enough to pose a threat to the hegemonic powers. African countries would not be in the picture unless co-opted by their former colonisers, which is quite likely.

Given the history of colonialism and conflict in both India and China, a yearning to get back to the good old days when the Western bloc's (this includes Russia) authority was unchallenged by people whom it considered inferior should be taken seriously, given the havoc wrought on the world by Trump and his cronies in the MAGA sphere.

China has taken appropriate steps to ensure it never again has to endure what is labelled the 'century of humiliation'. India has suffered nearly three centuries of humiliation and is yet to acknowledge it. In any protracted US-led coalition versus China war, if India makes the grave mistake of joining the coalition, it will end up as collateral damage inflicted by both sides.

As for this article, *'honi soit qui mal y pense'*. The Brits have left their mark on me, and it is hard to shake it off.

THE BIG LENS

A contested code for reform

The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) – proposed and consistently supported by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) – continues to divide opinion. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi noted that the UCC and the 'One Nation, One Election' process are the party's two "unfinished" agendas. With a constitutional amendment bill linked with women's reservation and the delimitation of constituencies defeated in the Lok Sabha, the UCC discourse may now be put on the back burner, but not for too long.

While the government has made its intent to implement the UCC clear, it is noteworthy that in 2023, the 22nd Law Commission sought fresh suggestions from stakeholders, including the general public and religious institutions. The Supreme Court of India has made a strong case for the UCC, suggesting it would strengthen national integration and remove diverse loyalties, thus encouraging social cohesion. The Constitution has a provision for the Code in Article 44 as a Directive Principle of State Policy, which says: 'The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India'. Commenting on a recent case, the Chief Justice of India Surya Kant called the UCC a "constitutional ambition" that has nothing to do with religion.

However, the UCC has always been seen through the lens of religion, with debates preceding Independence. The *Lex Loci Report* of 1840 emphasised the need for uniformity in the codification of Indian laws, but recommended keeping the personal laws of Hindus and Muslims outside that codification. Queen Victoria's Proclamation of 1858 promised non-interference in Indian religious practices. However, the British, with the help of Hindu social reformers, brought in laws relevant to the Hindu community. Significant reforms included the Married Women's Property Act of 1923, which formalised Hindu women's right to property.

In 1941, the British established the B N Rau Committee, then known as the Hindu Laws Committee, tasked primarily to examine the necessity of common Hindu laws. The committee recommended a codified Hindu law with assured equal rights for women in the community.

Seshadri Chari
reads between the lines on big national and international developments from his vantage point in the BJP and the RSS

@seshadrichari

After Independence, the first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, strongly rejected the idea of separate civil laws for religious communities. But considering the sharp, post-Partition religious polarisation, he must have thought it prudent to bring only the Hindu society under a uniform law. The government did what the British had done – leave the personal matters to personal laws of the relevant religious group and bring the criminal matters under the Common Criminal Code.

The Rau Committee report was implemented as the Hindu Code Bill, applicable only to the community. Several leaders, including the then-President of India, Rajendra Prasad, staunchly opposed this move. They contended that reforms in personal laws will have to be propelled by individual religious groups through internal social reforms rather than through external laws. But finally, in the larger interest of reforms in the Hindu society, the Hindu Code Bill was accepted. Since then, the Supreme Court and several socio-political and religious leaders have felt the need to do away with regressive and archaic personal laws such as the triple *talaq*, through legislative processes. Incidentally, the Hindu Code Bill and other civil laws also need a relook.

In a way, the UCC is meant to replace various laws that are inconsistent with each other and are currently applicable to different religious groups. These laws include the Hindu Marriage Act, Hindu Succession Act, Indian Christian Marriages Act, Indian Divorce Act, and Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act. Certain personal laws like the Sharia (Islamic laws) are not codified and draw on individual interpretation by the clergy, based on religious scriptures.

The proposals in the UCC include equal rights for sons and daughters over inheritance of property and gender- and religion-neutral laws on wills, charity, guardianship, and sharing of children's custody.

Unlike the 'Christian' West, rigid Islamic countries, and the 'liberal' Europe, India does not see religions as conflicting; instead, it respects all of them as different paths to the same ultimate truth. The Hindu society has adapted to change and given up many practices that were socially divisive, abhorrent, and carried no scriptural sanctity. Other religious groups also need to adapt with time. Any suggestion for change or academically evidenced criticism should not be seen as an infringement of religious rights by Hindus or Islamophobia by the Muslim leadership. Civil law or fundamental human rights cannot be a subject of religious obligation or treated as munificence of religious hierarchies.

DHARMA

From courts to community: The global resurrection of Islam

Devdutt Pattanaik
works with gods and demons who churn nectar from the ocean of Indian, Chinese, Islamic, Christian, even secular mythologies

For nearly a millennium, from AD 700 AD to AD 1700, the Islamic world was not merely a religious community but a civilisational order where faith and power moved together. Mosques, madrasas, courts of law, Sufi shrines, and networks of scholars were sustained by political authority – from the Abbasids to the Ottomans, from Safavid Iran to the Mughals in India. Religion was not separate from governance; it was embedded in society's structure.

This long partnership began to fracture dramatically, starting in the late 18th century. The turning points were military and economic: Napoleon's invasion of Egypt in 1798, the defeat of Tipu Sultan in 1799, and the steady expansion of European empires across Asia and Africa. By the early 20th century, almost the entire Muslim world had come under Western domination – British in India, French in North Africa, Dutch in Indonesia, Russian in Central Asia, and Anglo-French mandates in the Middle East.

This was not simply a political conquest. It was the dismantling of an entire civilisational infrastructure. State patronage for Islamic education was withdrawn. Madrasas lost endowments that had sustained them for centuries. Scholars trained in religious sciences were excluded from new bureaucracies that privileged Western education. Islamic law was pushed out of the public sphere and confined to personal matters like marriage and inheritance. Even there, it was reshaped by colonial courts applying foreign legal principles.

In some regions, the transformation was more radical. In Turkey, the reforms of the 19th century and Mustafa Kemal Atatürk's revolution in the 20th century abolished the caliphate, closed madrasas and Sufi lodges, replaced Islamic law with European codes, and imposed new cultural norms, ranging from dress to script. Religious institutions were nationalised or dissolved. What had taken centuries to build was, in a few decades, stripped away.

The result was a profound crisis. The Islamic world was no longer anchored in political sovereignty. The structures that had once sustained religious life were weakened or erased. As one poet lamented in the 19th century, everything – from governance to education, from economy to imagination – seemed to lie in foreign hands.

Yet this dismantling did not produce disappearance. Instead, it triggered a remarkable transformation. Deprived of State support, Islamic societies began to rebuild themselves from below.

The first response was intellectual and spiritual. Reform movements emerged across the Muslim world, calling for a return to foundational texts – the Quran and Hadith – while questioning accumulated traditions. Reformers inspired a shift from inherited authority to personal engagement with scripture. Religion moved inward, into the conscience of the individual believer, who was no longer simply part of a State-backed order but an active participant in rebuilding society through correct conduct.

The second response was institutional, but outside the State. In South Asia, new madrasas were founded, most famously at Deoband in 1867. Unlike earlier institutions, they relied on public donations rather than royal patronage. They created networks of scholars rooted in society rather than in courts. They used print technology to spread religious knowledge widely in vernacular languages. This model multiplied across regions. Thousands of madrasas emerged in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, offering not only education but also identity and community support. In places where the State failed to provide schooling, they became crucial institutions.

Alongside education came movements of mass mobilisation. The Tablighi Jamaat encouraged ordinary believers to preach and reform themselves and others. Jamaat-e-Islami sought to create disciplined communities that could influence the State. Similar organisations arose in Egypt, Indonesia, and elsewhere, combining religious teaching with social service and political aspiration.

In Turkey, where the State had aggressively secularised society, Sufi networks and intellectual movements quietly rebuilt religious life through study circles, community networks, and education. They emphasised knowledge, discipline, and service, creating new forms of Islamic presence within a secular framework.

What emerges from this history is not a simple story of decline and recovery, but a transformation in the locus of power. Earlier, Islam was sustained by rulers. In the modern era, it is sustained by communities. Authority shifted from courts and empires to classrooms, print networks, voluntary organisations, and individual conscience.

The dismantling of the Islamic world by colonial and modernising forces was real and often devastating. But the response was equally profound. By turning inward and outward at once – into personal piety and social organisation – Muslims across regions reconstructed a sense of continuity without relying on political sovereignty.

The result is a different kind of civilisation: less anchored in empire, more diffused across society; less dependent on rulers, more sustained by believers. This is not a return to the past, but a reconfiguration. What was once built from above now grows from below. And the world is feeling threatened.

IPL 2026

10 TEAMS 13 VENUES 58 DAYS 74 MATCHES

"Feels really good. After that game the other night, was a disappointing game, but to get it done today feels good. It is always going to be at the back of the mind till you win another game.

DAVID MILLER, DC BATTER

Delhi halt Bengaluru's home run

Hosts' batting fumbles as visitors post 6-wkt win

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

On April 8, Delhi Capitals' David Miller was castigated heavily for refusing a single off the penultimate ball that eventually cost his team a one-run defeat against Gujarat Titans. The big-hitting South African gambled on finishing the game on his own as he was batting on 41 and his partner was spinner Kuldeep Yadav. Sadly, his decision backfired but the management, though, stood by him.

Since that brain fade, the southpaw, one of the most lethal finishers in world cricket, must have waited for an opportunity to correct that misjudgement. He chose a tense IPL game against defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru here at the Chinnaswamy Stadium on Saturday to do so, unleashing his famed brutality to power DC to a thrilling win off the penultimate ball with six wickets to spare.

Chasing a tricky target of 176 on a tacky surface, Delhi Capitals huffed and puffed amidst some splendid death-over bowling from RCB that left them needing 15 from the last over. Although Tristan Stubbs (60 n.o.) was still in the middle along with the experienced Miller (22 n.o., 10b), the match was still in the balance considering how well RCB had pulled things back in the last five overs through the veteran pace duo of Josh Hazlewood (0/38) and Bhuvneshwar Kumar (3/26).

With the duo bowled out, Romario Shepherd was tasked with delivering the final over, and when he gave away just two singles off the first two balls, RCB would have thought they were almost near the finish line. But Miller had other plans, as he lofted Shepherd for consecutive sixes and then a four to pull off the chase that left the Challengers' faithful disappointed.

Tristan Stubbs (left) and David Miller celebrate after taking Delhi Capitals across the line in a tense chase against Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday. RIGHT: Bhuvneshwar Kumar had given a sniff for RCB with a brilliant opening spell, but DC held their nerve to eke out a win. DH PHOTOS/ KISHOR KUMAR BOLAR

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BENGALURU: Phil Salt c Stubbs b Kuldeep 38b (4x4, 3x6), Virat Kohli c Nissanka b Ngidi 19 (13b, 3x4), Devdutt Padikkal c Miller b Axar 18 (13b, 1x4, 1x6), Rajat Patidar c Rahul b Mukesh 8 (4b, 1x6), Tim David c Natarajan b Axar 27 (17b, 3x4, 1x6), Jitesh Sharma c Miller b Ngidi 14 (20b, 1x4), Romario Shepherd lbw Kuldeep Yadav 1 (4b), Krunal Pandya (run out) 12 (10b, 1x6), Rasikh Dar (not out) 0, Bhuvneshwar Kumar (not out) 3 (2b). Extras (LB-2, NB-1, W-8) 11. **TOTAL (for 8 wkts, 20 overs) 175.**
Fall of wickets: 1-52 (Kohli), 2-99 (Padikkal), 3-105 (Salt), 4-131 (Patidar), 5-146 (David), 6-149 (Shepherd), 7-172 (Krunal), 8-172 (Jitesh).
Bowling: Auqib Nabi 3-0-36-0 (w-1), Mukesh Kumar 4-0-32-1 (w-4, nb-1), Lungi Ngidi 4-0-39-2 (w-1), Kuldeep Yadav 4-0-32-2 (w-1), T Natarajan 2-0-16-0 (w-1), Axar Patel 3-0-18-2.

DELHI CAPITALS: K L Rahul c Kohli b Krunal 57 (34b, 6x4, 2x6), Pathum Nissanka lbw Bhuvneshwar 1 (2b), Karun Nair c Salt b Bhuvneshwar 5 (5b, 1x4), Sameer Rizvi c Jitesh b Bhuvneshwar 2 (3b), Tristan Stubbs (not out) 60 (47b, 4x4, 1x6), Axar Patel (retd hurt) 26 (19b, 3x4), David Miller (not out) 22 (10b, 1x4, 2x6). Extras (LB-3, NB-1, W-2) 6. **TOTAL (for 4 wkts, 19.5 overs) 179.**
Fall of wickets: 1-2 (Nissanka), 2-16 (Nair), 3-18 (Rizvi), 4-87 (Rahul), 4-134 (Axar, retired hurt).
Bowling: Bhuvneshwar Kumar 4-0-26-3, Josh Hazlewood 4-0-38-0, Rasikh Dar 4-0-40-0 (w-2, nb-1), Krunal Pandya 4-0-24-1, Suyash Sharma 3-0-31-0, Romario Shepherd 0.5-0-17-0.

Result: DC won by 6 wkts.
PoM: Tristan Stubbs.
RCB's next match: Vs GT (April 24, Bengaluru).

Delhi snapped their two-match losing streak while Royal Challengers suffered their second loss this season.

Earlier, the Royal Challengers actually made a good start through Phil Salt (63) and inform veteran Virat Kohli (19) as the duo effortlessly took apart the Delhi Capitals' opening pacers Auqib Nabi and Mukesh Kumar. Salt, who has found his mojo in the IPL following a dismal T20 World Cup, played the big shots from the onset, while the in-form veteran Kohli typically alternated between caution and aggression as the Challengers went about at 10 runs an over in the Power Play.

Kohli departed in the final over of the Power Play, but Salt and the incoming Devdutt Padikkal continued to bat with a high tempo. The rate at which the duo were going, it looked like the Royal Challengers would rake up their fifth 200-plus total in their sixth match. But a double blow in the middle phase put a brake on the Challengers' run, and the hosts never recovered from that as Delhi bowled smartly on a pitch that played slow again.

First to perish was Padikkal in the 10th over, his attempted lofted shot off Axar Patel (2/18) landing in the hands of David Miller in the deep. Salt joined him in the dugout four balls later, the Englishman holding out to Stubbs in the outfield off Kuldeep Yadav (2/32).

Challengers had plenty of hitters in their arsenal, but barring Tim David (26), none of the others could get to play a game-defining innings as the they stumbled to a par-looking total that proved inadequate in the end.

RR eye rebound against winless KKR

KOLKATA, PTI

A bruised Rajasthan Royals will look to bounce back strongly and deepen the misery of a floundering Kolkata Knight Riders when the two sides with contrasting fortunes clash in an afternoon IPL fixture, here on Sunday.

The match pits one of the stronger outfits this season against inarguably the most out-of-sorts side.

While Rajasthan had surged with four consecutive wins before being halted by Sunrisers Hyderabad, KKR have progressed in the opposite trajectory, still searching for their first win after six matches.

Under Ajinkya Rahane, defeats have been the only constant, often from winning positions, leaving the side short on confidence and momentum. Their only point has come through a rain washout against Punjab Kings here.

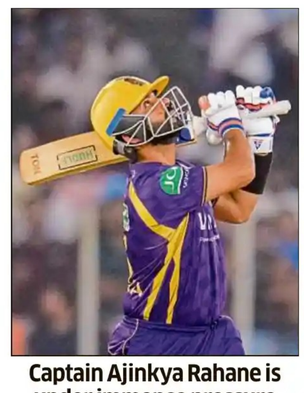
KKR's struggles have been compounded by an under-strength pace attack, with Harshit Rana and Akash Deep ruled out due to injuries, while Matheesha Pathirana is yet to join.

Yet, their on-field decisions under Rahane and head coach Abhishek Nayar have also come under scrutiny. Selection calls and match management have raised eyebrows.

The 'entry points' of Chakravarthy has been particularly puzzling.

Low on confidence from the T20 World Cup, the premier India spinner was used in the power play early in the season, conceding heavily, including a 25-run over to Abhishek Sharma, denting his confidence early on.

It took him four matches to open his wickets tally with scalps of Jos Buttler and Washington Sundar in Ahmedabad.



Captain Ajinkya Rahane is under immense pressure to deliver first win of the season for the KKR. PTI

LIVE 3:30 PM

POINTS TABLE

Team	Played	Won	Lost	NR	Pts	NRR
Punjab Kings	5	4	0	1	9	1.067
Royal Challengers	6	4	2	0	8	1.171
Rajasthan Royals	5	4	1	0	8	0.889
Sunrisers Hyderabad	6	3	3	0	6	0.566
Delhi Capitals	5	3	2	0	6	0.310
Gujarat Titans	5	3	2	0	6	0.018
Chennai Super Kings	6	2	4	0	4	-0.780
Lucknow Super Giants	5	2	3	0	4	-0.804
Mumbai Indians	5	1	4	0	2	-1.076
Kolkata Knight Riders	6	0	5	1	1	-1.149

Rampaging Punjab take on injury-hit Lucknow

MULLANPUR, PTI

Table-toppers Punjab Kings will bank on strong batting to continue their winning run against struggling Lucknow Super Giants, who are sweating over skipper Rishabh Pant's injury, in their IPL match here on Sunday.

PBKS, the only unbeaten side so far, have looked ominous this season with four wins from five matches, with one game against Kolkata Knight Riders washed out. The Shreyas Iyer-led side boasts a healthy net run rate of +1.067, thanks to their strong batting displays that have powered clinical chases.

The Kings have won nine of their last 11 matches while chasing since the 2025 season, underlining their dominance, and it was also seen in their recent win over Mumbai Indians. It will take something special from LSG to halt the home team's momentum.

Lucknow, currently seventh on the points table, are reeling from back-to-back losses, and Pant's elbow injury in the previous match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru has further dented their campaign.

Prabhsimran Singh

LIVE 7:30 PM

Pant looked in visible discomfort and retired hurt after facing just three deliveries. Though he returned later with his elbow heavily strapped, he managed only 1 off 6 balls, but his availability for Sunday's game was confirmed by LSG bowling coach Bharat Arun.

It was a one-sided contest against RCB as LSG could muster only 146, with Mukul Choudhary and Ayush Badoni providing some resistance.

Their batting is yet to click, with the side still to cross the 200-run mark this season. In contrast, Punjab have breached that mark twice and cruised to 198 for 3 in 16.3 overs against MI in their last outing.

Punjab opener Prabhsimran Singh (211 runs) has been in outstanding touch, while skipper Iyer (203) has been equally impressive, striking at 172.95 and 187.96 respectively. The duo combined effectively in the win over MI. Priyansh Arya and Cooper Connolly have also contributed significantly to Punjab's batting firepower.

On the bowling front, spearhead Arshdeep Singh returned to form with a fine 3/22 against MI.

Prince Yadav has been Lucknow's most successful bowler with nine wickets, followed by Avesh Khan (5) and Mohammed Shami (4), who was taken apart by Virat Kohli and Rajat Patidar the other day.

Digvesh Rathi was also expensive in that game, conceding heavily to Jitesh Sharma and Tim David, and will need to bounce back.

Malinga, Abhishek sink Super Kings

Sunrisers post 10-run win as Chennai batting implodes

HYDERABAD, PTI

Sri Lankan pacer Eshan Malinga's pinpoint yorkers found perfect support in unheralded left-arm wrist spinner Shivang Kumar as Sunrisers Hyderabad edged past Chennai Super Kings by 10 runs in a gripping IPL thriller here on Saturday.

Chasing a victory target of 195, CSK finished at 184 for 8 largely due to Malinga (3/29 in 4 overs) and Shivang's (1/18 in 3 overs) superb execution in the post Powerplay overs.

CSK needed only 84 runs in the last 10 overs, perfectly gettable in this day and age of T20s but Malinga's blend of yorkers, hard lengths and short balls really kept them quite while Shivang also got appreciable turn and bounce to make life difficult for the Yellow Brigade.

The defeat kept CSK in seventh place while SRH moved to fourth place in the 10-team table. CSK have not chased a 190-plus target in the last eight years now.

CSK needed 18 off the last over bowled by Praful Hinge, who had gone for 50 plus in his first three overs, and the Vidarbha pacer kept his cool giving away only seven runs while snuffing out the dangerous Jamie Overton.

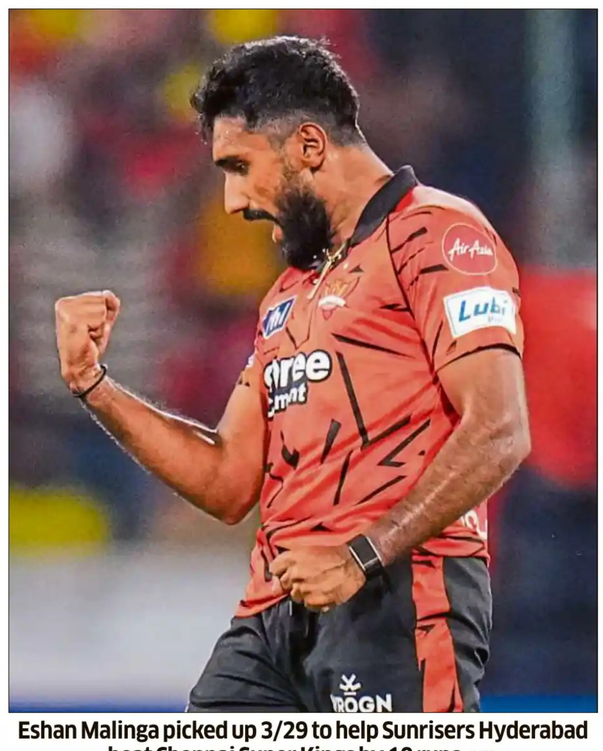
Sanju Samson started with a first ball six but Nitish Reddy, having added a few yards of pace, hit the hard length to get rid of him quickly.

Ayush Mhatre (30 off 13 balls) started from where he left with a flurry of fours and a six but a hamstring injury did affect his concentration.

It took a brilliant catch from Heinrich Klaasen to send him back and an out of sorts Ruturaj Gaikwad (19 off 12 balls) got a heavy ball from Malinga to glove it to Salil Arora behind stumps.

At 66 for 3, Sarfaraz Khan (25 off 19 balls) and Matthew Short (34 off 30 balls) added 46 before the Mumbai right-hander lost control off a flick off Malinga to be caught at deep mid-wicket.

Dewald Brevis (0) played the most irresponsible shot off Shivang Kumar to be caught in the deep before Short and Shivam Dube (21 off 16 balls) added another 35 but certainly not at a quick clip.



Eshan Malinga picked up 3/29 to help Sunrisers Hyderabad beat Chennai Super Kings by 10 runs. AFP

SCORE BOARD

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD: Abhishek Sharma c Samson b Overton 59, Travis Head c Gaikwad b M Choudhary 23, Ishan Kishan c Gaikwad b M Choudhary 0, Heinrich Klaasen b Kamboj 59, Aniket Verma c Noor b Overton 2, Nitish c Short b Overton 12, Arora c Brevis b Gurjapneet 13, Livingstone c Brevis b Kamboj 1, Shivang Kumar c Gurjapneet b Kamboj 12, Praful Hinge (not out) 0. Extras (B-5 LB-4 W-4) 13. **TOTAL (for 9 wkts, 20 overs) 194.**
Fall of wickets: 1-75, 2-75, 3-93, 4-112, 5-147, 6-177, 7-179, 8-193, 9-194. **Bowling:** Matthew Short 3-0-38-0, Mukesh Choudhary 2-0-21-2, Anshul Kamboj 3-0-22-3, Noor Ahmad 4-0-33-0, Jamie Overton 4-0-37-3, Gurjapneet Singh 4-0-34-1.
CHENNAI SUPER KINGS: Sanju Samson c Klaasen b Nitish 7, Ruturaj Gaikwad c Arora b Malinga 19, Ayush Mhatre c Klaasen b Nitish 30, Sarfaraz Khan c Nitish b Malinga 25, Dewald Brevis c Livingstone b Shivang 0, Shivam Dube b Sakib 21, Jamie Overton c Livingstone b Hinge 16, Anshul Kamboj (not out) 13, Noor Ahmad (not out) 1. Extras (W-15, NB-2, LB-1) 17. **TOTAL (for 8 wkts, 20 overs). 184.**
Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-66, 3-66, 4-112, 5-113, 6-148, 7-154, 8-182.
Bowling: Praful Hinge 4-0-60-1, Nitish Kumar Reddy 4-0-31-2, Sakib Hussain 4-0-32-1, Eshan Malinga 4-0-29-3, Shivang Kumar 3-0-18-1, Abhishek Sharma 1-0-13-1.
PoM: Eshan Malinga

India women lose series opener to SA

DURBAN, PTI: South Africa captain Laura Wolvaardt punished a wayward Indian bowling attack to script a clinical six-wicket win in the Women's T20 series opener here on Friday.

With the bat too, India never got the momentum they needed to end up with 157 for seven.

The visitors were indisciplined with the ball, conceding 14 runs in wides as South Africa coasted to the target in 19.1 overs. Wolvaardt (51 off 39 balls) laid the platform for a convincing win.

Annerie Dercksen (44 not out off 34) completed the job for the home team with a power-packed effort.

Brief scores: India: 157/7 in 20 overs (Jemimah Rodrigues 36, Harmanpreet Kaur 47 n.o.; Ayabonga Khaka 3-16) lt to South Afrcia: 158/4 in 19.1 overs (Laura Wolvaardt 51, Annerie Dercksen 44 n.o.; Shreyanka Patil 2-26) by 6 wkts. **PoM**: Ayabonga Khaka.

Kadur-Ramaswamy build lead over Gill-Srikanth

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru-Coimbatore combination of Karna Kadur and co-driver Kumar Ramaswamy (Arka Motorsports) came up with a drive to remember as he opened a 22-second lead over Gaurav Gill (Srikanth GM) from Delhi and topped the 49th South India Rally at the Madras on conclusion of Leg-1 at the Madras International Circuit on Saturday.

With four more Special Stages to be run on Sunday and a sizeable lead, Kadur is within striking distance of the title.

Kadur, the 37-year-old Bengalurean supported by MRF Tyres, heads both the APRC and INRC Overall standings ahead of three times APRC champion Gill (Srikanth Gowda).

Provisional classification (Leg-1): Asia-Pacific Rally Championship: Karna Kadur / Kumar Ramaswamy (Arka Motorsports) (01:01:09.9), 1; Gaurav Gill / Srikanth GM (01:01:32.3), 2; Jeet Jhabakh / Musa Sherif (01:04:22.3) 3.

Karna Kadur

INRC Overall: Karna Kadur / Kumar Ramaswamy (Arka Motorsports) (01:01:09.9), 1; Gaurav Gill / Srikanth GM (01:01:32.3), 2; Vishak Balachandran / Chiranth Jain (Duran Racing) (01:03:39.9), 3.
INRC 2: Ritesh Guttedar / Suraj M (AART Motorsports) (01:04:21.1), 1; Jeet Jhabakh / Musa Sherif (Pvt.) (01:04:22.3), 2; Arun Y Mavaji / Jeevarathinam (Chettinad Sporting) (01:06:17.6), 3.
INRC 3: Arvind Dheerendra / Shahid Salman (Chettinad Sporting) (01:03:52.3), 1; Abhishek Gowda / Mahesh Nandi (Arka Motorsports) (01:04.45.1), 2; Chandan Manchegowda/ Suraj Keshav Prasad (Arka Motorpsports) (01:04.59.3) 3.
INRC 3T: Vishak Balachandran/ Chiranth Jain (Duran Racing) (01:03:39.9) 1; Anushriya Gulati/ Karan Aukta (Arka Motorsports) (01:06:04.7) 2; Adith KC/ Avinash CA (Arka Motorsports) (01:08:25.2), 3.

Rybakina marches on

STUTTGART, AFP

Australian Open champion Elena Rybakina surged to a 7-5, 6-1 victory over teenager Mirra Andreeva on Saturday and will face Karolina Muchova for the title in Stuttgart.

Rybakina shook off any lingering fatigue from a late finish in Friday's quarter-final win over Leylah Fernandez to reach her third final of the year.

Top seed Rybakina snatched a tight opening set by breaking Andreeva, who was 7-0 on clay this season and won in Linz last week, with the Russian serving to force a tie-break.

She carried over that momentum to sweep into a 5-0 lead in the second set before closing out victory in 77 minutes.

"First set, we were going pretty even," said Rybakina. "I had some opportunities to go up but didn't take them. But I'm happy that in these important moments, my serve worked and I stayed aggressive.

"Then in the second set being up, I was more free to hit, to step in, to play even more aggressive.

"So I'm pretty happy with the performance. It was really solid. And I guess the three-hour match yesterday, it did help me today."

Rybakina, who finished runner-up at Indian Wells last month, will have a chance on Sunday to regain the title she won two years ago and drive off with a second Porsche sports car -- the coveted prize awarded to the champion in Stuttgart.

Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina returns during her semifinal win over Russia's Mirra Andreeva. AFP

Tanishka Kalbhairav (left) and Himanshi Chowdhary.

K'taka's Tanishka, Himanshi win

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a tightly contested U-19 doubles final, Karnataka's Tanishka Kalbhairav and Himanshi Chowdhary edged past Maharashtra's Hardee Patel and Divyanshi Bhowmick, winning 3-2 in a five-game thriller in the first leg of the Junior and Youth National Table Tennis Championships here on Saturday.

Although their opponents forced a decider with a resilient fourth-game push, Kalbhairav and Chowdhary raised their intensity in the final game, combining consistent placement with timely attacking strokes to seal the title.

Meanwhile, Syndrela Das capped a remarkable run by defeating Divyanshi Bhowmick 4–1 in the U-19 singles final.

With this victory, Syndrela completed a rare double, having already secured the Under-17 singles crown at the same championships.

IN A FIX Coaches not on the same page with sports ministry about sending different teams for WC & Asiad

Indian hockey's BIG DILEMMA

The Indian men's and women's hockey teams will first compete at the World Cup in the Netherlands and Belgium from August 15-30 before beginning their campaign at the Asian Games in Japan from September 19 to October 4. A mere 18-day turnaround time between the two high-intensity events has become a cause of concern. HI MEDIA

HITA PRAKASH
BENGALURU, DHNS

Peak summer in the Netherlands and Belgium during August has temperatures ranging between 15 and 22 degrees Celsius. Approximately 13,000 km away, during September in Japan, the transitional climate from summer to autumn ranges between 26 to 30 degrees Celsius.

In between these diverse weather conditions, different time zones, relevance of the moment and several other variables, lies a grey area that the men's and women's Indian hockey teams find themselves in. This is because both the national squads will be in fray at the World Cup in the Netherlands and Belgium from August 15-30 before beginning their campaign at the Asian Games in Japan from September 19 to October 4.

While the Indian men's team's lone world title came way back in 1975, their women counterpart's fourth-place finish in 1974 remains their best result. At the Asiad, however, India are the powerhouses with the men starting as the defending champions and the women as top contenders for gold.

That was the gist of what the two national sides will face in a busy second-half of the year. The devil, however, is in the details. A mere 18-day turnaround time between the two big tournaments, a World Cup in Europe against the sports' top sides – where India's chances of finishing on the podium are considered a tall order, and the continental bash being a 2028 Los Angeles Olympic-qualifier (gold medallists at Asian Games seal their Olympic spot) are factors that have sent the think-tank into an overdrive.

So then, should India field their best squads for both the events? Should it be a mix of the cream and the second rung players for the first and their premier line-up for the second? Will fielding two completely different teams for each be a gamble worth taking? Such in-depth deliberation is primarily to avoid/ manage physical and mental fatigue of players during their quest to churn out optimum performance in a jam-packed schedule.

Concerned about the same, last Monday, news of the Sports Ministry expressing its view on the matter spiced up the debate further. They want Hockey India to field the best teams for the Asiad and B teams for the biennial World Cup. Though the squads are yet to be finalised and named, the Sports Ministry's perspective is in contrast with the sport's national federation and the two head coaches – Craig Fulton and Sjoerd Marijne – of the men's and women's sides, respectively, who maintain that their best players will play both crucial events.

"We need to understand that most of the boys (in the national set-up) are above 100 caps. So, I think, physically, it shouldn't be a problem," feels VR Raghunath, former player and dragflick expert who scored 132 goals in 228 international matches for India.

"It will be more of a psychological and mental challenge. Imagine, things turn out well and they fare well at the World Cup. That positivity will definitely be carried forward into the Asian Games. We were in a similar position in 2014," offers the 37-year-old double Olympian from Kodagu.

What Raghunath is referring to is in 2014 the Glasgow Commonwealth Games were held between July 23 and August 3 and the Incheon Asian Games were held from September 19 to October 4. While the Indian men's side finished second, after losing 0-4 to Australia in the final, at the CWG, they went on to grab gold by beating Pakistan through a penalty shootout in the final of the Asiad. Of course, in this scenario, the turnaround time was more than a month, but Raghunath's point is that competing in back-to-back big high-intensity tournaments has always existed and given the ever evolving hockey ecosystem, players are trained for such tasks.

"Our squad for both were almost the same and we medalled at both. Back then, a match was 70 minutes with two halves of 35 minutes each. Now, it is a total of 60 minutes with four quarters of 15 minutes each and unlimited change of players (substitutions). It will all be about balancing and managing on-field duties. How players are injected and rested according to the intensity of a game, taking full responsibility of individual roles, proper rest and recovery and such micro management are key," points out Raghunath.

Speaking about the unique challenge of the tricky dilemma faced mostly by the Asian hockey-playing countries, MM Somaya, former India captain and three-time Olympian, feels no single option will please everybody. He insists that tough decisions on team composition based on players' latest fitness and form will need to be made as the two assignments approach.

"Look, there is no doubt this is a demanding schedule. So the composition of the final teams will be a collective decision based on the best interest of the players and India's chances at doing well," says Somaya, who was part of the gold medal-winning men's side at the 1980 Moscow Olympics, captained India at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, and was part of two World Cups (1982 and 1986).

"Along with Hockey India, the government and coaches, the feedback from the players will definitely be taken seriously. Because in 1986 we won the Asian Games (Seoul) bronze beating Malaysia on September 29 and immediately flew to London to play our first match at the World Cup scheduled six days later.

"India and Pakistan were the only two teams who went through this double challenge. Both of us were capable of finishing in the top-5 at the World Cup but ended up fighting for the 11th and 12th spots. It definitely has left a lasting scar on me because had we had sufficient gap between the two maybe, we would have performed better. So the concern is actually healthy," offers the Madikeri-born 66-year-old Somaya.

While all eyes will be on every probable player and the workings of coaches Fulton and Marijne to put the right pieces of the puzzle together, both Somaya and Raghunath stress on the enormous responsibility that lies on the shoulders of the support staff in preparing both sides before and during the events.

"Keeping the players injury-free and keeping things light-hearted outside the field will definitely be the main focus of the support staff. I'm sure they will chalk out each session, have a clarity of specific roles even 60-70 days prior to the events," opines Raghunath.

Somaya adds: "Compared to 45-50 years ago, the training, practice and emphasis on mental fitness have become so scientific. There are renowned coaches for every department, including strengthening and conditioning. The world's top psychologist will be guiding them. Yes, the challenge is massive but I think with top class support staff and their commitment will surely help in tackling the tough task better."

Given the format, each of the Indian teams will play a minimum of six matches at the World Cup before the 18-day buffer and then wield their sticks again for a minimum of another five games at the Asiad.

Gruelling, yes. The answer to this conundrum hinges on the next 100 days of prep work during the Indian summer and monsoon months.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

IPL: Kolkata Knight Riders vs Rajasthan Royals **(3:30 pm)**, Punjab Kings vs Lucknow Super Giants **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

2nd WT20: South Africa vs India **(5:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

FOOTBALL

EPL: Everton vs Liverpool, Aston Villa vs Sunderland, Nottingham Forest vs Burnley **(all 6:30 pm)**, Manchester City vs Arsenal **(9 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network.**

Copa Del Rey (Final): Atletico Madrid vs Real Sociedad **(12:30 am, Sunday)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

ISL: North East United FC vs Mohun Bagan SG **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 2, FanCode.**

IFL: Dempo Sports Club vs Rajasthan United FC **(4 pm)**, Real Kashmir FC vs Sreenidi Deccan FC **(6:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 5, SonyLIV.**

TENNIS

ATP 500 Barcelona Open: Finals **(5:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

Reback for North India Fillies Trial Stakes

DELHI SELECTIONS

Syed H Abbas-trained Reback, to be ridden by Vivek G, is fancied to win the North India Fillies Trial Stakes, the feature event of the races on Sunday.
The first race starts at 3.00 pm.
1. The Navratna Plate – 1600M: Poly Czar 1; Black Rainstorm 2; Sir Mor 3.
2. The Champion's Call Plate – 1000M: Yakutsk 1; Big Bang 2; Ashwa Jubilee 3.
3. The Winning Streak Plate – 1000M: Jet Thunder 1; Country Magic 2; Shera 3.
4. The North India Fillies Trial Stakes– 1400M: Reback 1; Enrica 2; Ashwa Reckong Peo 3.
5. The Luckey Stride Plate – 1100M: Hukamori 1; Golden Sun 2; Big Decision 3.
6. The Destiny Run Plate -1100M: NAIROBI 1; Trending Cruise 2; Chieftain 3.
Day's best: Jet Thunder. **Jackpot**: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6. **Treble**: 4, 5, 6.
The Stewards of the Delhi Race Club have resolved to postpone the First Extra Day from Saturday (April 18th) to Sunday (19th April) due to administrative reasons.

ATHLETICS

'90% of tracks are substandard'

No danger of results being annulled, says Sumariwala

NEW DELHI, PTI

Ninety per cent of the synthetic tracks currently used in the country are substandard "material-wise, laying-wise, marking-wise", said Athletics Federation of India (AFI) spokesperson Adille Sumariwalla in a shocking revelation on Saturday.

Sumariwalla said the AFI has been told by World Athletics to get involved into the matter and clean up the mess. He, however, said there is no danger of results or performances of athletes being annulled due to the substandard tracks.

"I'm not going to name the tracks, but I can tell you 90% plus tracks in India are substandard material-wise, laying-wise, marking-wise.

"We had a meeting with World Athletics in Tokyo (last year during World Championships), they showed us some data, which was quite shocking," Sumariwalla said during a virtual press conference.

"The material used is substandard, the process is substandard, the granules used are substandard, the laying methodology is substandard. The thickness is substandard, instead of polyurethane, only rubber or tyre rubber is being used in some.

"We have seen tracks where they put rubber of tyres below and only put red paint on top. It's that bad. Now what will happen? That will get finished over a period of time.

"In a few months, it will be finished. Nobody will be able to run on it.

He said the AFI, during its Annual General Meeting in Kohima on April 14 and 15, has decided to get involved in track certification.

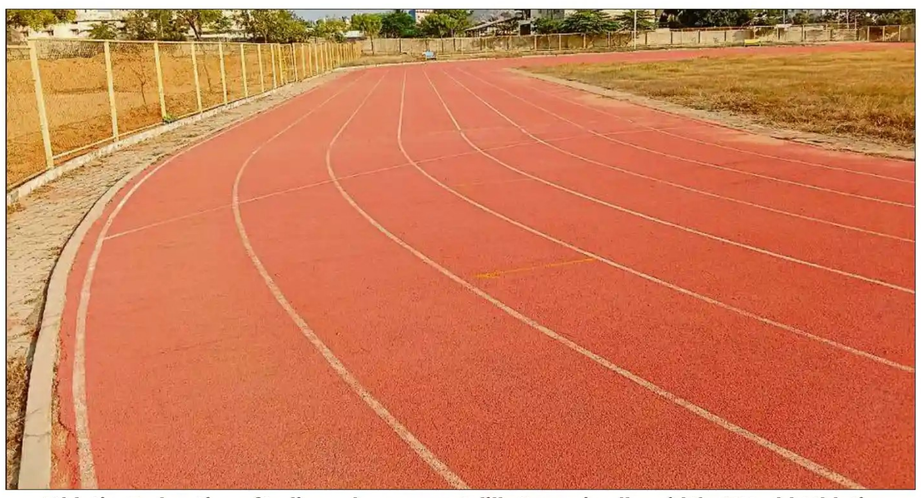
"They (World Athletics) were not happy with the quality that was being certified. So AFI will now help in certifying and ensuring that all standards of measurement and quality are met," said the former AFI president and currently World Athletics vice president.

"We are working out on how we are going to go about. What is happening is that a lot of people are fly-by-night. They're not even proper vendors. So we need to look at the quality of the vendors. We will probably come out with a list of vendors who are genuine vendors worldwide and whose substances are to be used.

"We actually conducted a course with foreign experts coming to India to make our officials understand how a track is to be measured, how a track is to be tested what needs to be done during the time when the laying happens. So we had some foreign experts who had come down to explain to us how that is to be done.

Sumariwalla said the AFI was never involved in track certification earlier.

"We stayed away from this for a very long time, because the way the tracks have been awarded etc. is not something that we want to get into. "We've never certified any track earlier. However, from now on we'll have to get involved."



Athletics Federation of India spokesperson Adille Sumariwalla said that World Athletics is not happy with the quality of tracks in the country that were certified. DH FILE PHOTO

Top Indian athletes to undergo DNA testing

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Top Indian athletes are set to undergo DNA testing under Project GENESIS, an initiative of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), aimed at strengthening sports science and injury prevention research. The proposal was approved during the federation's annual general meeting held on April 14-15 in Kohima.

Addressing the media, AFI spokesperson Adille Sumariwalla stressed that the exercise is purely research-driven.

"These tests will be absolutely confidential. At the moment, we are collecting data to see how we can prevent injuries. It's not for talent identification," he said.

The former AFI president explained that DNA analysis would generate detailed insights into muscle composition, body structure and physiological traits of athletes.

Sneha SS

The data is expected to aid in designing personalised training programmes, improving recovery strategies and managing injuries more effectively. He also added that there was a lack of India-specific genetic data in sports science.

"Today there is no data available specific to Indian athletes. Most existing research is based on Caucasian data (western athletes), which is very different," he said.

As per AFI, Project GENESIS (Genomics for Elite Sports Integrated System) seeks to integrate genomics into high-performance sport. The federation believes the initiative will help optimise athlete performance, health and recovery through evidence-based and ethical scientific practices, marking a progressive shift in Indian athletics.

Sneha in squad

Meanwhile, out of five top Karnataka runners, who prominently featured in the International Invitational Relay Competition late last month, only sprinter SS Sneha (for women's and mixed 4x100m) found a spot in the India squad for World Athletics Relays in Bostwana early next month.

The top names to miss out were India's second fastest sprinter Manikanta Hoblidhar (100m), Unnathi Aiyappa (100m), MR Poovamma and GK Vijayakumari (400m).

Manikanta's exclusion is owing to a muscle pull at the Chandigarh event and is expected to be fit by next month.

Kibet, Chelangat to lead elite runners

BENGALURU, DHNS

Uganda's Harbert Kibet and defending champion Sarah Chelangat will be the top athletes in the men's and women's elite categories, respectively, at the 18th edition of TCS World 10K Bengaluru here on April 26.

The event is set to welcome a record 35,000-plus participants across on-ground and virtual races. Joining them at the flag-off on Cubbon Road will be world champion and Olympic medallist Blanka Vlasic as the International Event Ambassador.

With a total prize purse of USD 210,000, the World Athletics Gold Label Race will also include Abhishek Pal and Sanjivani Jadhav spearheading the Indian challenge. Both the local runners topped the podium among Indians in the previous edition.

The men's contest will also have Kiran Matre, national marathon champion Kartik Karkera, who made a winning debut at the Mumbai Marathon this year with a time of 2:19:55.

Sarah Chelangat

While Abhishek had recently finished second among Indians at the Delhi Half Marathon (1:04:57) and third at the TCS World 10K Bengaluru last year (30:01), Sanjivani holds a 10K personal best of 34:02, set at the TCS World 10K Bengaluru in 2024, and has enjoyed consistent success across the domestic road racing circuit.

Sanjivani will face strong competition from Lili Das, who boasts a 10K personal best of 34:13 and has been a national champion in the 1500m.

Leeds pull clear of trouble, Bournemouth win

LONDON, AFP: Leeds beat Wolves 3-0 to open up a nine-point cushion in the battle for Premier League survival before Tottenham aim to dig themselves out of trouble at home to Brighton on Saturday.

Fresh from a first league win away at fierce rivals Manchester United since 1981, Leeds all but secured their top-flight status.

Two goals in two first-half minutes from James Justin and Noak Okafor pushed Wolves to the brink of relegation before Dominic Calvert-Lewin's penalty in stoppage time rounded off the scoring.

Bournemouth piled more pressure on Eddie Howe's future as Newcastle manager with a 2-1 win at St. James' Park.

The Cherries showed no ill effects from the news that Andoni Iraola will depart as boss at the end of the season.

Results: Brentford: 0 drew with Fulham: 0; Leeds: 3 (Justin 18th, Okafor 20th, Calvert-Lewin 90th+5) bt Wolves: 0; Newcastle: 1 (Osula 68th) lt to Bournemouth: 2 (Tavernier 32th, Truffert 85th).

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IN BRIEF

Rangers HC hold Hassan DHA

▸ Suresh's 22nd-minute goal helped Rangers Hockey Club equalise and force their match against Hassan District Hockey Association to a 1-1 draw in the KSHA A Division Hockey League Championship on Saturday, reports DHNS.

Results: Hassan District HA: 1 (Augustine Martin 15th) drew with Rangers HC: 1 (Suresh 22nd).

Chotrani goes down fighting

▸ India's Veer Chotrani went down to French fourth seed Baptiste Masotti in a five-game thriller in the men's quarterfinals of the Hamburg Open, a PSA Bronze-level event, reports PTI from Hamburg.

Chotrani, ranked world No. 47, recovered twice to take the contest down to the wire before the French world No. 19 clinched the decider for a 12-10, 9-11, 14-12, 9-11, 11-6 victory in 69 minutes.

Rashford to Man Utd?

▸ Manager Michael Carrick has refused to rule out the prospect of Marcus Rashford returning to Manchester United once his loan spell with Barcelona comes to an end, reports AFP from London.

England forward Rashford has not played for United since December 2024 and ended last season on loan at Villa before joining Barcelona.

Suraj advances to semis

▸ Suraj Kumar Chand was the lone Indian to advance to the semis of the HCL Squash PSA Challenger Tour at the Indian Squash Academy on Saturday, reports PTI from Chennai.

Aditi makes cut at LA Championship

LOS ANGELES, PTI

An eagle towards the end of the day saw Indian golfer Aditi Ashok make the cut at the JM Eagle LA Championship on the LPGA Tour here.

Aditi carded 72 after a first round 70 and at 2-under.

Starting on the 10th, she bogeyed the 10th and 15th but picked one shot on the 16th. A bogey on the 18th was followed by a birdie on the first.

The see-saw continued as she bogeyed the second before landing an eagle on the seventh.

Pranavi sole survivor

Pranavi Urs was the sole Indian to make the cut as she scraped through into the weekend rounds on the cutline at the Joburg Ladies Open, adds PTI from Johannesburg.

Pranavi, who had carded 3-under 70, added 1-over 74.

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02	Information Science & Engineering	RS. 1,15,000/ Year	
03	Electronics & Communication Engineering	RS. 85,000/ Year	
04	Electrical & Electronics Engineering	RS. 80,000/ Year	
05	Mechanical Engineering	RS. 65,000/ Year	
06	CIVIL Engineering	RS. 65,000/ Year	
07	M.TECH	RS. 65,000/ Year	
08	MBA	RS. 65,000/ Year	
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99 / 100

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
100 / 100

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
99 / 100

SAI PREETHAM D
90.8%

KIRTHAN S B
90%

POORVI
90%

SAHANA K H
90%

YAMINI S
89.4%
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
99 / 100

TANUSHREE K
88.8%

DISHA M SENCHA
88.6%

N S SUPRIYA
88.6%

PALAKSHI PABITRA NANDA
88.6%

GAGANA T
87.6%

SNEHA L
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95.2%

LAVANYA H M
95%

POORVI PRASHANTH
95%

SHARAN SHETTY S
96.4%

DIYA S
94%

ASHRAY M S
93.8%

BHAVIK RAJ A
93.8%

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93.6%

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RISHIKA S
86.4 %

AKUL A S
85.8%

HAMSAVENI M T
85.4%

LOHITH B NAYAKA
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4TH HIGHEST SCORE IN STATE

99.33 %
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8TH HIGHEST SCORE IN STATE

98.67 %
Shreyas Pai

98 %
Ritu kulkarni

97.83%
Ishita Sundaresan

97.50%
Sokka Madhav

Centums 43
Distinctions 137
1st Class 166
Strength 334

97.33%
Shlokh Subbaiah K T

97.17%
Ramya J A

97%
Adwaith Biju

97%
Rishvika Satheesh

97%
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97%
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SIRI G M

10TH HIGHEST SCORE IN STATE

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98.17%
ROHAN GEORGE KOSHY

98.17%
AISHANI RAI

98.17%
PURVI NAGARAJ MESTA

Centums 71
Distinctions 173
1st Class 111
Strength 289

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Ranjani

86.60%
Basavarajeshwari

COMMERCE

93.33%
Gonwar Jagath Jagannath

89.50%
Rajawali

88.50%
Deepa Basappa Hosmani

100% Result with all Distinctions & First Class

Shakuntala Devi Pre-University College

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Heartily Congratulate

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II PUC Annual Examination held in April 2026.

SCIENCE

Ishana R.
(590 - 98.3%)

Aryan
(586 - 97.6%)

Rohit Sai P.
(580 - 96.6%)

Naman
(575 - 95.8%)

Vismaya A.
(575 - 95.8%)

Dharshitha
(574 - 95.6%)

Aarush K.
(574 - 95.6%)

Adyant E.
(573 - 95.5%)

Aryan S.
(566 - 94.3%)

Vivek M. P.
(548 - 91.3%)

Sanjana S.
(541 - 90.1%)

Amogh K.
(536 - 89.3%)

Vinutha M.
(533 - 88.8%)

Ayan K.
(530 - 88.3%)

Pranav B.
(521-88.8%)

COMMERCE

Trisha
(568-94.66%)

Neethu
(510-85%)

Chinthan A. K.
(510-85%)

Kavya
(488-81.33%)

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Malleswaram, Bengaluru 560003

The Principal, Management & Staff

of the College congratulate the Students who have excelled in the PU Board Examination-1 2026

Total Appeared 907

Pass Percentage: 98.9

Distinctions : 564
First Class : 321

97.6% of our students have secured Distinction/ First Class

Karnataka State Toppers

COMMERCE

State 6th
MANASA S BHARADWAJ
595 / 600

State 7th
PRADYUMNA BHAT
594 / 600

State 8th
AMULYA HEGDE
593 / 600

State 10th
PRARTHANA H
591 / 600

SCIENCE

State 7th
NIHARIKA SHENOY
593 / 600

State 7th
SUSHMITHA B R
593 / 600

State 8th
MITR PARISHWAD
592 / 600

State 9th
LIKHITHA S
591 / 600

State 10th
SAKETH SUBRAMANYA K IYER
590 / 600

State 10th
SUMEDHA KALYANARAMAN
590 / 600

Number of Students who have scored Centum- 258

Physics	23
Chemistry	01
Mathematics	48
Biology	05
Computer Science	42
Electronics	13
Statistics	17
Business Studies	09
Basic Mathematics	20
Accountancy	06
Economics	01
Sanskrit	73

TOP SCORERS OF OUR COLLEGE IN THE SCIENCE STREAM

Deeksha A Vedeshwar
589 / 600

Rachana Raghavendra
589 / 600

Bhavya R
588 / 600

Sai Karthik V
588 / 600

Uddhava Kamath Hundi
588 / 600

K Aravind
587 / 600

Keerthi Y S
587 / 600

Thejas K
587 / 600

Anagha K S
586 / 600

Yashas V A
586/ 600

Pavana R
585 / 600

Shravani
585 / 600

Spoorthi S
585 / 600

Hamsa B N
584 / 600

Keerthan G
584 / 600

Shreya V
584 / 600

Lisha R Gowda
583 / 600

Pragna G
583 / 600

Rashmipriyanka V M
583 / 600

Sharan M
583 / 600

Shrivalli Pradeep Bhadri
583 / 600

Aaryanayan N
582 / 600

Arun S Hegde
582 / 600

D M Pavan Kumar
582 / 600

Madhusudhan Reddy A
582 / 600

Nireeksha Girish
582 / 600

Sahana S
582 / 600

Sampada Bhat
582 / 600

Srujan M V
582 / 600

Varsha M N
582 / 600

Chiranth Gowda N
581 / 600

Sharanya H P
581 / 600

Suprita S Maidaragi
581/ 600

Sreehari B Kulkarni
580/ 600

Chaithanya S
579 / 600

Harshith S
579 / 600

Banu Prakash G
578 / 600

Bhanuprakash S M
578 / 600

Ekanth Rajkumar
578 / 600

Namratha C
578 / 600

Ramya S H
578 / 600

Srivatsa R Verma
578 / 600

Anagha K J
577 / 600

Kshama Agnihothri
577 / 600

Mohith Kumar B S
577 / 600

Namratha Purohit
577 / 600

Sinchana P
577 / 600

Ananth N
576 / 600

Daksh C
576 / 600

Kaushik S
576 / 600

Maanya S
576 / 600

Rahul G N
576 / 600

Sanjana V
576 / 600

Sechana N
576 / 600

Shreyas B
576 / 600

Suhas S G
576 / 600

Vaishnavi Gavigatt
576 / 600

Veda V
576 / 600

Hriday M
575 / 600

M Manjunatha
575 / 600

Priyanka Kamath
575 / 600

Swaraj R
575 / 600

Yashaswini T
575 / 600

TOP SCORERS OF OUR COLLEGE IN THE COMMERCE STREAM

Chandan S K
590 / 600

Keerthana H
590 / 600

Tejas N
590 / 600

Chaithra L
589 / 600

Jasmitha G
589 / 600

Rakshitha S
589 / 600

M Lohith Reddy
587 / 600

Pooja A N
586 / 600

Pratiksha D S
586 / 600

Rachana K
586 / 600

Sanhitha S R
585 / 600

Harsha R
583 / 600

Kalwa Nagashree Manvitha
582 / 600

Samana V Joshi
582 / 600

Sunayana V
582 / 600

Aishwarya Karegowda Arun Kumar
581 / 600

Diya Shetty
581 / 600

Lavanya S
581 / 600

Nikhitha V A
581 / 600

Sanketh Sharma M S
581 / 600

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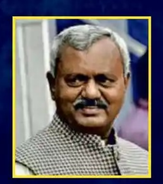
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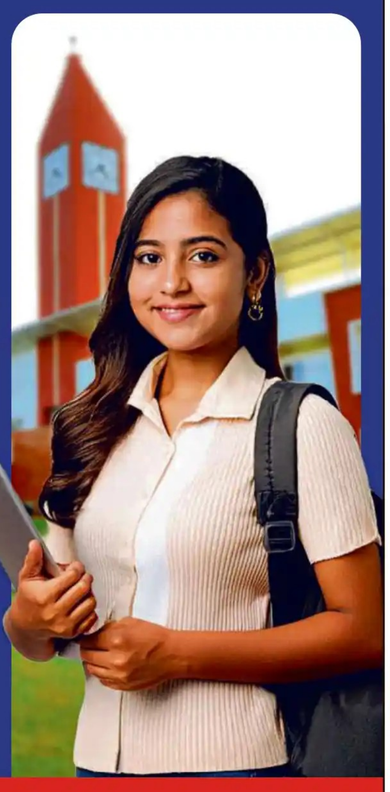

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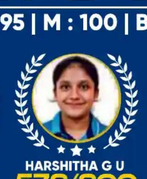
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The Power of Good

Pilaf platter

A one-pot dish of saffron-tinged rice, vegetables, and meat is the highlight of every Uzbek celebration

Food & Drink *Page 4*

Travel *Page 3*

Treasure island

Head to Mauritius not only for its tropical beaches and volcanic landscapes but also for its multicultural vibe

Big **Picture**

Unequal heat

From conflict-scarred regions to flood-prone cities, those least responsible for the climate crisis endure its harshest consequences. The conversation is thus now about why justice must shape every climate response. Ahead of Earth Day, we examine the deeper fault lines of climate disasters to tell the story of how vulnerability is engineered

From Kyiv to Kolkata, climate hazards reveal a stark injustice: those who suffer the most often have the least power. In Ukraine today, the war's ruins continue to pollute land and water with toxic remnants, undermining ecosystems and public health. In the Middle East, ongoing conflict has devastated civilian infrastructure, collapsing water and sanitation systems, spreading hazardous debris across densely populated areas, and accelerating environmental degradation in a region already under severe climate stress.

Armed conflict leaves lasting environmental fallout, but it is residents, not the decision-makers waging war, who endure long-term consequences, often with little voice in cleanup or recovery.

Globally, climate experts emphasise that policies must be rooted in fairness: activities that "prioritise equity, climate justice, [and] social justice" yield more sustainable outcomes. One lead author of the latest IPCC report puts it plainly: "Climate justice is crucial because those who have contributed least to climate change are being disproportionately affected." In short, the wealthy, powerful, or violators often evade costs, while vulnerable communities bear the brunt.

A skewed moral geometry

This moral geometry is not abstract; it plays out repeatedly in India's climate crises. After a heavy monsoon downpour in Bengaluru, two neighbours experienced vastly different realities. In a well-built apartment complex, rain pooling was minor, whereas just a kilometre away in a riverside slum, families waded through waist-high water as homes were swept away. As disaster expert Madhukar Upadhya observes, "When floods enter the floodplains, it is the poor that suffer the most damage." Many low-income residents have no insurance, few savings, and no safe evacuation plan; even after the waters recede, they face months of rebuilding. Meanwhile, wealthier city-dwellers call workers for repairs and move on. This is climate injustice in miniature: the hazard was the same, but recovery was not.

One way to frame this inequality is to ask: who caused the harm, who is exposed, and who has the resources to adapt? Under this view, equality is not about treating everyone the same; it is about protecting based on need. The Bengaluru example shows how social factors like income, class, occupation, gender, and geography determine climate risk.

Manufactured risk

Climate hazards themselves do not check income or class before striking, but societies do. In India, extreme heat is rising every year. In 2024, the country recorded its longest heatwave on record: over 80% of Indians faced severe heat stress daily for weeks, resulting in tens of thousands of heat-related illnesses and deaths. Yet the impact is far from uniform. The country's overwhelmingly informal workforce (about 90% of workers) endured this deadly heat with little protection. Experts estimate that by 2030, India could lose the equivalent of 6% of its annual working hours (roughly 34 million jobs) to rising temperatures, disproportionately affecting outdoor labourers and informal-sector workers. In other words, heat does not discriminate, but our economy does.

Gender compounds the divide. Deep-rooted inequalities mean that climate disasters have "the greatest impact on women and girls, particularly those in vulnerable or marginalised situations." Women often have less access to capital, land, or information, and after a flood or drought, they are more likely to lose education or employment. Families may pull girls out of school after a crop failure or health crisis, increasing long-term poverty. Women also shoulder more unpaid care work. A severe heatwave or cold snap forces many women to leave jobs to tend to children or sick relatives, with no safety net. Women's unpaid responsibilities and limited rights translate climate shocks into widened inequity.

Rajendra Joshi of Saath, which works towards creating inclusive societies, says: "The implications of climate change on the informal workforce are both direct and indirect—spanning financial losses, health impacts, disrupted livelihoods, depleted savings, and reduced access to education." Ahmedabad-based Saath, which works with informal workers across many states in India, has researched how climate change increases the burden on women. Joshi adds, "When climate disruption affects work, that burden does not disappear—it falls on the household, and women absorb it, compounding an already heavier care burden."

Urban design is yet another layer of manufactured risk. Affluent areas tend to have more parks, trees, and storm drainage, while poorer neighbourhoods are built on the cheapest land, often in heat sinks or flood zones. In Bengaluru today, fewer than 3% of city areas are vegetated (down from 68% in 1970). With most green cover gone, runoff from development quickly fills drains.

As one expert observed, decades of unplanned construction have "exacerbated India's Silicon Valley's vulnerability to floods." Informal settlements are pushed into harm's way: the urban poor are "generally pushed to floodplains where roads, drainages and other infrastructure are poorly maintained," so that in a downpour, "the poor suffer the most damage." Once flooded, these families have few resources to recover; many have no title to land, no home insurance, and little political clout. These examples show that vulnerability is not simply an act of God, but a product of decisions and neglect by society. Wealth, caste, gender, and address combine to determine who bears the worst impacts of climate change. Policies that ignore these differences can even worsen outcomes: climate adaptation plans that do not account for social inequities risk reinforcing them. In other words, treating everyone "equally" in a crisis might actually be unfair, because equal treatment in an unequal society leaves the vulnerable behind.

Cascading inequality

Climate disasters rarely strike in isolation. Often, one shock triggers another, and each one lands hardest on the marginalised. A flood may displace a slum community downstream, but that is not the end of their struggles. Displaced families may end up in another high-risk area or a crowded camp, still without clean water, while political attention shifts elsewhere. Similarly, a region hit by drought may then face wildfire or a food-price crisis, compounding deprivation. The IPCC warns that with higher warming, even "limits to adaptation will be reached" and losses will be "strongly concentrated among the poorest and most vulnerable."

For example, coastal erosion is a slow-moving disaster: governments may relocate a beachfront village, only to rebuild highways that push the next village closer to the sea. In all cases, the same people keep losing ground. Conversely, middle-income groups often have savings or insurance to buffer multiple shocks. The result is cascading inequality: each disaster deepens existing divides. In summary, climate change does not just cause damage incrementally; it multiplies hardship for those already exposed.

The limits of policy

Some of the legal and policy frameworks for climate justice are already in place, but implementation lags. Remarkably, India's Constitution directs both the state and citizens to protect the environment (Art. 48A), and the Supreme Court has long interpreted the right to life (Art. 21) as including a "clean and healthy environment."

In August 2024, the Court took a landmark step: in Ranjitsinh vs Union of India (2024), it explicitly recognised the "freedom from the adverse effects of climate change" as a fundamental right. In other words, one can now argue in court that unmitigated climate harm violates basic rights. However, the law alone has limits. Many government schemes lack teeth or funding. India's National Disaster Management Authority issued heatwave guidelines years ago, and most major cities have Heat Action Plans. Yet a 2024 analysis found these plans often lack scientific detail or adequate funding, and they frequently omit rural and informal communities. The result is patchy protection: millions of farm workers and slum-dwellers remain uncounted in city heat policies.

Raghunandan, an environmental lawyer from Chennai, says: "The interests of the marginalised ought to be central to environmental decision-making. Policies that seemingly protect the environment, while disempowering forest-dwelling tribes, traditional fishers, or the urban working class, are neither just nor sustainable."

Globally, the picture is similarly mixed. The Paris Agreement and UN conventions recognise equity, but funding is scarce. A UNEP report estimates that developing countries will need US$310–365 billion per year by 2035 just for adaptation, yet only about US$26 billion was provided in 2023. At current trajectories, even pledges to double adaptation funding by 2025 will fall far short. In practice, this means vital projects—like raising homes on stilts or maintaining irrigation wells—often go unfunded. International bodies (Loss & Damage funds, Green Climate Fund, etc.) exist, but move slowly, and the largest polluters have made few binding commitments to pay for the harm.

In short, the tools for climate justice are slowly taking shape but the implementation muscle remains weak. Without dedicated funding and accountability, the right to relief or adaptation remains theoretical for most vulnerable people.

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

What does real climate justice look like?

Climate justice is not an empty slogan; it is a fundamentally different approach to solving climate problems. It means giving equal weight to the needs and voices of the worst-off. Practically, that involves shifting decision-making power: affected communities, local governments, and even informal workers should help set adaptation priorities, rather than being passive recipients of aid. The IPCC and experts emphasise this: activities that "prioritise equity, climate justice and inclusion" lead to more sustainable outcomes.

One can imagine a few elements of such justice in action. For example, requiring that new development projects include risk compensation for nearby poor communities, or mandating that disaster relief funds allocate additional resources to women-led households. In cities, planners could use heat maps and flood-risk maps to "cool the hottest wards first," planting trees and building drainage in the most vulnerable neighbourhoods. In law, embedding climate rights into enforceable policy—as India's Supreme Court has begun to do—would mean people can seek legal recourse if a floodplain is filled without safeguards.

Wars make climate injustice starkly visible, but the same issues persist in peacetime: in every heatwave and every storm, the fundamental question remains who bears the cost and who makes decisions. Real justice would invert the current logic: those who have been left to "stand in the heat" would be the first whose interests are protected.

Climate change is not a great equaliser. Both in war-torn regions and in thriving cities, evidence shows that the poor, marginalised, and powerless usually pay the heaviest price. Moving forward, policymakers must remember that those most exposed to rising temperatures and floods were often not the ones creating greenhouse gases. Only by centring equity—focusing relief and resilience on those with the greatest need—can we build a fairer response. As one activist put it, when it comes to climate and conflict alike, the burning question remains: who gets to decide, and who is left standing in the heat?

VENKATESH RAGHAVENDRA, Arushi Malik and Sruthakeerthy Sriram

Venkatesh Raghavendra is a global social entrepreneur and philanthropy advisor. Arushi Malik is a climate and energy policy researcher with a background in law. Sruthakeerthy Sriram is a lawyer and public policy professional.

ASTROSPEAK
Guruji Shrii Arnav

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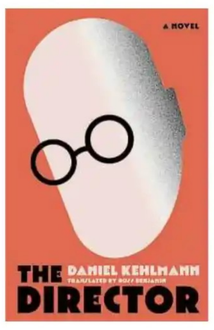
Sudipta Datta gives us an overview of the International Booker-shortlisted works, in which translated fiction reveals how political forces and moral choices inevitably meld

Journeys within, gaze fearless

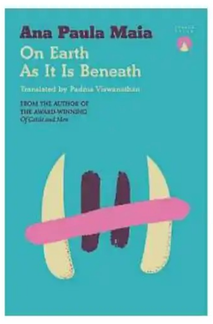
In a world obsessed with borders and narrow nationalism, Daniel Kehlmann takes a moment from history and makes it urgently contemporary in his latest work. The 14th novel of the Munich-born writer of German and Austrian nationality, **The Director,** translated by Ross Benjamin, has been shortlisted for the International Booker Prize 2026.



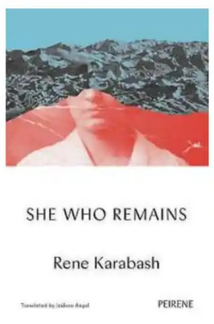
Kelhmann looks at the "strange moral glamour" of films, and the way it can "make compromise look like professionalism." He uses the real-life story of G W Pabst, a celebrated filmmaker who became morally compromised during the Nazi era, and how seemingly easy it can be to become complicit and look away. Pabst, unable to resist the offers made by the minister of propaganda in Berlin, that includes a place at a sanatorium for his mother, begins making films, hoping he will not submit to any "dictatorship but art". Yet, under the shadow of his expedient acceptance, a Faustian bargain had already been made.

Five other books on the shortlist — all by women — take readers on a journey from Brazil to Taiwan, Albania to France, and Iran after the Revolution. It is a fascinatingly informative journey that ultimately throws light on the human condition, tying in with the theme of the Prize's 10th year, 'Fiction Beyond Borders'.

The shortest book on the list is Ana Paula Maia's **On Earth As It Is Beneath**, translated from Portuguese by Padma Viswanathan. The novella is set in a penal colony which came up on land where slaves had been tortured. The present inmates don't know "whether to tell the truth or just plead ignorance" on any questions they are asked for fear of the repercussions. The prison is winding down, but no one knows what awaits. One of the characters is Bronco Gil, a prisoner convicted of murder, who also appears in her previous novel, Of Cattle and Men, set in a slaughterhouse. Like Kafka's chilling short story, In the Penal Colony, Maia maps the cruelty people in power often unleash on those who do not have any say.


Ana Paula Maia
On Earth
As It Is Beneath
Translated by Padma Viswanathan
FROM THE AUTHOR OF THE AWARD-WINNING Of Cattle and Men

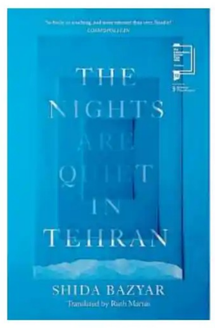
Brutality and isolation appear in other titles as well. Irena Ivanova wears many hats – writer, scriptwriter, theatre director, actress. The Bulgarian, who is also a poet, uses the pen name Rene Karabash. Her deeply moving debut novel, **She Who Remains**, translated by Izidora Angel, is about a teenage girl,



Bekija, growing up in a remote Albanian village in 2017 but still ruled by ancient Kanun (laws). She denounces an arranged marriage by opting to become a "sworn virgin" and live as a man, Matija. Other writers — Ismael Kadare (Broken April), Elvira Dones (Sworn Virgin) — have explored this gender transformation guided by honour, and Karabash has said that she read Kadare's books to learn about "their particular world." It resulted in a novel radical in form and spirit. There is no formal sentence structure, with the free-flowing prose delving into questions of gender, queer love, family, religion and how the past informs the present.

A bittersweet queer love story is also at the heart of Yáng Shu ng-zi's novel, **Taiwan Travelogue**, translated from Mandarin Chinese by Lin King. It's May 1938, and a young Japanese novelist, Aoyama Chizuko, embarks on a trip to Taiwan. She has been enlisted by the Japanese government ruling the island to write about her experience, but Chizuko wants to look beyond any imperialist agenda. When Chizuko meets her interpreter, Chizuru, they make an instant connection over food — the writer admits she has a "monstrous appetite." Together, they travel all over Taiwan, and their mouth-watering culinary adventures are a moveable feast, becoming a foil for a dark tale of colonial history and how power imbalances any relationship.

With US President Donald Trump's unbelievable threat to bomb Iran "back to the stone ages", it's the right time to read Shida Bazyar's **The Nights are Quiet in Tehran**, translated from German by Ruth Martin. It tells a multigenerational story of a family who flee from Tehran after the 1979 Islamic Revolution and subsequently return, and the country's rich, multi-layered, complex history. The other great novel on Iran on the longlist, Shahrnush Parsipur's Women Without Men, translated from the Persian by Faridoun Farrokh, unfortunately didn't make it to the shortlist. The book, banned in Iran since its publication in the 1980s, imagines a garden outside Tehran where women can live, breathe and imagine.



That women, who dare to think differently, always come under extreme pressure is the focus of two books — **The Witch**, written by Marie Ndiaye, and translated from French by Jordan Stump, about a mother with waning magical powers who transfers them to her 12-year-old twin daughters, and The Wax Child by Olga Ravn, translated by Martin Aitken about a real-life 17th century Danish witch trial. Ravn missed out, unlike Ndiaye, but both books write about women, one in the past, one in the present, who didn't conform and had to face the consequences.

Since the shortlist has been announced, readers have debated the omissions, particularly Matteo Melchiorre's The Duke, translated by Antonella Lettieri, about a maverick Italian aristocrat who has seen better days, as much as they have lauded the inclusions. In a particularly strong year for translated fiction, the jury's task was cut out, but as the Chair, Natasha Brown, said about the selection: "With narratives that capture moments from across the past century, these books reverberate with history. While there's heartbreak, brutality and isolation among these stories, their lasting effect is energising." Now, on to May 19, when the winner will be declared; last year, Banu Mushtaq and Deepa Bhasthi won for their collection of stories, Heart Lamp.

The writer is a journalist based in Kolkata.

A nowhere town and half-told tales

This collection of short stories promises a textured world but leaves you tracing outlines and waiting for a solidity that never quite arrives, writes Nandita Bose

This book catches the eye for three reasons. The cover by Harshad Marathe is dreamlike and nostalgia-inducing. It's a book of short stories, though a common enough object for readers of a pre-mercenary publication world; it is only now that entire formats are subject to gatekeeping.

The author Maithreyi Karnoor is building a reputation. So Gooday Nagar has much in its favour. "The town was yet to be called Gooday Nagar. It was a time when the landscape of the hopes and dreams of the townspeople was just farmland. Their senses weren't dulled by the onslaught of new things. And life was innocently oblivious to a future where it would be labelled charming in hindsight. The town took itself as seriously as it always did." Compact, it holds 10 short stories connected rather tenuously, for it is supposedly set in this location. The cast of characters is rather bewildering: from the self-important to the pitiable, the philandering, the almost holy, and those good old stock characters, and not to forget, an assortment of drunks. They may pass for a healthy mix that somehow floats in and out of a town like a bad play.

GOODAY NAGAR
Maithreyi Karnoor
Tranquebar, pp 256, Rs 499

"People mind businesses — their own and that of others. They believe in moving on and about, and are resolute in their ability to unmind heaps of rubbish. The voices are shrill, quick and jagged. To be heard over the din of trains, and each other, is an important instinctual development, and anyone who joins the milieu gains it." Combined, these stand for a people unique in their need for attention, resolute in their sorrows and joys, and going on to the next day despite it all.

While 'Return of the Salesman' leaves the reader underwhelmed, 'The Bachelor of Artsy Fartsy', after much meandering and lots of faff about his art, returns to his village, where labour is cheap. 'Uncity' is uncertain, with three mini-stories and a final, ambitious lapse into verse. When little Rani in 'Mapmaker, Mapmaker, Make me a Map' is less than 12, her school teaches her O Henry's 'The Gift of the Magi', which taxes the imagination. Although Rani is delightful, she is secretly overjoyed with her vitiligo and spends hours every night tracing its progress. "The vitiligo's changing contours were like secret messages from a big-hearted sender with a mischievous smile who watched over her. The patches resembled land masses, contrasting with the water: peninsula, gulf, lakes, and isthmuses that slowly disintegrated and stretched until islands broke away and turned into an archipelago." None of the stories outshines the others. And in all of them, you find the story arc somewhat incomplete, perhaps by design, leaving the reader hanging.

What is admirable here is that it's a post-Covid offering that treats Covid like reality: without hysteria and without diminishing its power. Not as a central event or character, but as something that swept through all lives, leaving none untouched. For the boy who adopts a monkey, and his mother, it was a harrowing time with people dying, which they survived by the skin of their teeth. Whereas, to Motya, the village drunk, it is the time to be creative and brew his own alcohol. Typos creep into all works, and here they singe. "Once, he loaded the canon (sic) and set the fuse on, but it wouldn't fire." And again later: "I was so scared I confused break (sic) and accelerator."

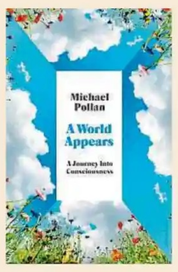
When we try to define Gooday Nagar, if only as an idea, we find we can't. Sometimes it is a tiny town that was a precursor to larger towns, barely half a decade removed from farmlands. Sometimes it is just a bus ride away from the village, as with our play-obsessed Jayesh. It is all kinds of places in between, where sows are reared, and husbands run away to cities with their protégés. There are also posh locations with swimming pools where the Bobbies reside, and the reader is left wondering, holding an assortment of clues, but none add up.

For it is neither conceptual nor solid, imaginary nor rooted in fact. It does not cohere into a contiguous notional location either. In trying to be everything, it is nothing. Gooday Nagar does not, as it may have, stand for the idea of a microstate. Instead, like its prose, characters and its stories, it is stranded midway.

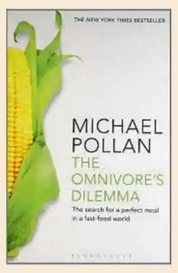
SPEED READS

Acclaimed author Michael Pollan has come out with a new work. Here is your guide to his best, where food, humans and culture are never quite what they seem.

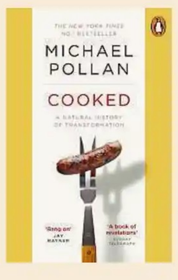
A World Appears (2026, Penguin)
Pollan traces the unmapped continent that is consciousness from several radically different perspectives: scientific, philosophical, spiritual, historical and psychedelic, to see what each has to teach us about this fundamental fact of our lives. He ventures beyond the brain labs, attempting to find neural explanations for our felt reality.



The Omnivore's Dilemma (2011, Bloomsbury)
What shall we have for dinner? Such a simple question has grown to have a very complicated answer. We can eat almost anything nature has to offer, but deciding what we should eat stirs anxiety. As the culture of fast food and unlimited choice invades the world, Pollan follows his next meal from land to table, tracing the origin of everything consumed and the implications for ourselves and our planet.



Cooked (2014, Penguin)
This one takes us back to basics and first principles: cooking with fire, with water, with air and with earth. Meeting cooks from all over the world, who share their wisdom and stories, Pollan shows how cooking is at the heart of our culture and that when it gets down to it, it also fundamentally shapes our lives.



Speed Reads *is a column for the bookworm who is short on time and reads on the go.*

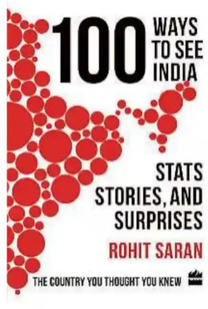
When numbers are a riot of colours

This book is a lively attempt to build data confidence and clarity, in an era overflowing with information but starving for true insights, writes Viju Cherian

The book helps us see India in a different light and get over our fear of numbers.

Did you know that Bengaluru is India's language capital? People in the state capital speak roughly 107 languages. With so many languages spoken, it truly is a melting pot. One of the reasons for this linguistic diversity is the huge potential Bengaluru offers to attract economic migrants.

The second most spoken language in India is a 'foreign' tongue. India has the world's second-largest population of English speakers. Shortly after Independence, compared to their Indian counterparts, the average Pakistani was richer, had a longer life expectancy, and had better chances of surviving infancy. Also, across religions in India, there are more married women than men — in Kerala, for every 1,000 married men, there are 1,131 married women!



100 WAYS TO SEE INDIA
Rohit Saran
Harper, pp 216, Rs 999

These are not new revelations; these are long-known statistics. The fact that Bengaluru is home to more than 100 languages comes from the 2011 Census, while India's position as the world's second-largest English-speaking population has been known since 2018.

Today, we have a glut of data, but it is of little use if we cannot decipher those Excel sheet columns or the numbers on various annual reports. Thus, for the uninitiated, a plethora of data can be intimidating — even seem useless.

Clearly, the challenge lies in decoding complex data, and presenting it in an easy-to-comprehend manner — and Rohit Saran's 100 Ways To See India: Stats, Stories, And Surprises precisely does that. The book is a visual storytelling of India, mostly using readily available but often hard-to-comprehend data. As Saran says in his book, 'We are flooded with numbers, but starved for insight'.

We live in an era where the difference between an informed and uninformed person is often not the lack of information, but how that information is understood and used to one's benefit. 100 Ways to See India is an attempt to provide understanding, to build data confidence, and to bring to light facts about India that are 'hidden in plain sight'.

Here is an example of how complex and layered data is presented readily: remember that people in Bengaluru spoke 107 languages? Interestingly, 187 mother tongues are spoken by the people in Bengaluru. This difference, of 107 languages and 187 mother tongues, is because the number of mother tongues is higher than the number of languages. For instance, Hindi is one language, but it has 56 dialects/mother tongues. Similarly, the fact that there are more married women than men tells just half the story. Polygamy, migration (men working abroad), higher female life expectancy, and more men remarrying than women could be the reasons behind these skewed numbers. The book, in addition to providing numbers, also interprets them, thereby adding an additional layer of information.

The book is divided into four sections, and my favourite is the fourth. While the first three sections do a good job in presenting data in an easy-to-grasp fashion, the fourth, titled Explore, reads like an extension of the author's mission to demystify data and big numbers. Fifteen examples of 'How Not to Be Fooled by a Number' act as cue cards helping to avoid common mistakes while dabbling with numbers. The author also provides access to the raw data used in the book, along with hacks and quick links for those who want to deep-dive into datasets.

Design is a key element that makes 100 Ways To See India unique. Along with understanding data, presenting it in a manner that catches one's attention is equally important. Particularly interesting is the design of the peacock with 100 feathers, each telling a different story about India. Sajeev Kumarapuram, as designer and 'co-author', has done a stellar job.

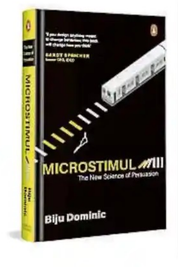
Seen from that perspective, 100 Ways To See India is a successful attempt to turn monotonous numbers into a riot of colours. It is a timely reminder that data need not be boring and that one does not have to frown upon seeing numbers. Importantly, the book helps us see India in a different light, and the author does this with numbers.

As an aside, numbers are more than just statistics; they are lived realities shaping how we see India. According to data from the National Crime Records Bureau, in the time it has taken you to reach the second paragraph of this review, a theft would have taken place somewhere in India. By the midway point, a woman would have been a victim of cruelty by her husband or his relatives. And, by the time you are reading this line, separate crimes of an attack on a woman's modesty and a burglary would have taken place.

READ OF THE WEEK

What could connect the grim statistic of 10 daily deaths on Mumbai's railway tracks with a breezy, 30-second ad encouraging us to reach for a salad instead of fries, and to the research of Richard Thaler, the Nobel Prize-winning pioneer of behavioural economics? These questions form the beating heart of MicroStimuli, a book that offers a revolutionary perspective on behavioural change. This book brings together research across disciplines to present a unified concept of MicroStimuli, not merely in theory but with robust case studies. It demonstrates how MicroStimuli, as small, precise behavioural triggers, can help policymakers, businesses, and individuals drive meaningful change in areas where conventional approaches have fallen short.

For 36 years, Biju Dominic has pursued a single quest: to understand what shapes human behaviour. He spent his first 17 years in top advertising agencies, practising the craft the traditional way. In 2007, he co-founded a fractal analytics company to break with convention, fusing neuroscience, behavioural economics and design into a new language for behaviour change. Today, he plays on the new frontier where neuroscience, artificial intelligence and design meet. He is driven by a simple conviction: the better we decode the brain's master algorithm, the smarter our persuasion strategies will be.



TIES AND KNOTS

DIGNITY BEGINS AT HOME

The relationship we share with our domestic staff reveals the inherent discrimination and segregation in our society. Feudalism is deeply entrenched and the inequality of power is hard to miss, writes Arundhati Ghosh

A woman who worked as a housemaid was 'caught' urinating in the corridor of a posh apartment complex. The story goes that she was fired and banned from entry into the premises while residents expressed shock and disgust. The more empathetic folks shook heads voicing concerns about the lack of education among 'their' lot. Very few questioned why a woman needed to go in an obviously public place knowing she might be discovered with dire consequences. The reasons ought to have been clear — most of us do not allow housemaids to use toilets at home and the public urinals ostensibly built for them at the margins of our residential campuses are dirty and unsafe. I will never know whether the woman acted out of desperation or rebellion, but she made our collective attitudes to domestic workers glaringly obvious.

Unmasking our duplicities

No matter how class conscious and casteless we pride ourselves to be, the relationship we have with domestic workers reveal our duplicity over the fault-lines that exist. We may give excuses about habits of hygiene for not allowing them to use our toilets, but it comes from embedded caste discrimination that is rife in urban societies. Most houses have separate utensils for domestic workers that are not used by others, separate lifts, and prohibition even on the use of public areas to gulp down lunch as they run from one house to another. Often, the food given to them is not just leftovers but what others at home refuse to eat because it is turning.

Listening to domestic workers in Bengaluru, I have gleaned that those who do the washing and cleaning of homes are treated the worst, the cooks — often the same caste as the employer — are slightly higher up, and then come those who look after children. It is not difficult to see how our self-interest and prejudices around caste and menial labour determine this hierarchy. At a seminar in Bengaluru, Gayatri, Treasurer of the Domestic Workers Rights Union, corroborated the facts mentioning that these are well-educated high-earning households where wages are cut for domestic workers if they take even a few days off. From these unsafe houses emerge news of unbelievable cruelty against live-in domestic workers, often young migrant girls with no druthers to leave. There are reports of domestic violence, missing girls, and trafficking rings where some fraudulent contracting agencies are also complicit.

Middle-class hypocrisy

"Why can't she just put her children in a free government school?" a friend of Ma's complained when her cook wanted a higher salary. "Would you?" Ma responded. This is a common lament among the middle class. While aggressively pushing their own agenda of upward mobility, they ridicule the aspirations of the working class to educate themselves, get better jobs, and live happier lives. The objection comes bolstered with the fear of losing the next generation of low wage workers. We boast about our children changing jobs for more money, whine about toxic workplaces, argue with bosses for increments and take every available leave possible to rest and travel. But the same is not on offer for domestic workers. The wages are never commensurate with the labour, an argument for a higher salary is deemed insolent, efforts to enhance their children's lives are overreaching, and there are no set policies for leave or benefits. I was shocked to hear that in many homes, they work seven days a week. Those employers who provide basic accommodation by way of their privileges as government officials, often don't give salaries. We seem to have missed the memo on the abolition of bonded labour.

The relationship of the woman of the household and the female domestic worker is particularly complicated. There is an attempt to control the workers' attire, ways of conduct, and especially their sexuality. The plunge of their neckline and chatting with male members of the family are dealt with equal ire. The nasty comments about the lasciviousness of morals and lack of shame of that particular 'class' can make ears burn. There seems to be a specific rage against the expression of desire — for sex, love or even a better life. Observing this at close quarters across many homes, I have noticed that despite the huge difference in privileges, there is a grudging jealousy that the householder feels towards the worker. The moral obligations and covenants of piety and sin that keep middle class women shackled to their marital bed and family's hearth often do not apply to working class women. Their frontal, lifelong struggles against oppression and injustice imbues them with an earned freedom, irreverence, and resilience that does not sit easy with the middle classes.

Workers sans agency

It is not that there are no homes where domestic workers are treated with dignity and love. I have seen households where mutual care creates sustainable bonds over decades of service. The worker is considered family and support is given and received in times of need, with a trust that is often stronger than those in kinships of blood or marriage. However, this relationship is totally dependent on the goodness of the employer, giving domestic workers absolutely no agency. Everything that should be the rights of labour become considerations of kindness. Feudalism is so deeply entrenched that we feel bestowing generosity should be our entitlement. No matter how well the worker is treated, there is immense inequality of power.

FEEDBACK
Have something to say? Send your feedback and suggestions to arufeedback @gmail.com

The need of the hour is clear legislation that protects the rights of domestic workers and guards them from abuse. Being part of the unorganised sector, they are excluded from most labour laws. The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 which does include them with protections like minimum wages is difficult to enforce due to absence of formal contracts, itinerant nature of work, and refusal of employers to take responsibility.

Despite the odds, in various cities across the country, movements of domestic workers are gaining strength and claiming rights of fair salaries, good working conditions, and dignified conduct. As Geeta Menon, Joint Secretary of the Domestic Workers Rights Union in Bengaluru says, "Respect is key to a relationship at work. It is about how you make people feel." That's where the struggle is at.

(This column navigates the various worlds of entangled relationships attempting to celebrate, cope with, and reimagine the meanings of our connections. Arundhati Ghosh is a writer, cultural practitioner, social activist, and traveller. All Our Loves: Journeys with Polyamory in India is her first book in English published by Aleph Book Company in 2025.)

Travel

Stanley Carvalho visits Mauritius and is impressed by how the extinct dodo is an inseparable part of the island nation's identity. The country drives home the message that humans must not let other species go the way of the bird, which was once endemic to the region

Ocean's whisper

The image of this ubiquitous bird displayed in malls, parks, and on signboards intrigued me on our first day in Mauritius. "Oh, that's our dodo," said our driver Roshan.

He must've thought what a dumb dodo I was and waxed eloquent about this plump, flightless bird that was once native to Mauritius and now extinct for over 300 years.

During our five days in this island nation, I learnt more about the dodo, a symbol of national identity in Mauritius. We encountered giant dodo statues in parks and food courts; the bird has lent its name to restaurants and shops and figures prominently on bags, clothing, beach towels, beer and rum labels. What's more, it also appears on the country's stamps and Coat of Arms, and is one of the most popular souvenirs that tourists take home.

Curious to know more about this bird, we decided to visit the Dodo Gallery, part of the Natural History Museum, a colonial building in the capital, Port Louis. It showcases the history of this extinct bird through pictures, sketches, audio/video, and life-size exhibits. We also spotted a tiny message that said "extinct but not forgotten". The dodo may be extinct but it is alive and squawking as it were, continuing to serve as a poignant symbol of Mauritius. More importantly, it quietly raises awareness that humans must not let other species go the way of the dodo.

History of indentured workers

Another equally edifying and fascinatingly touching point of interest was the Aapravasi Ghat, a UNESCO World Heritage site, the remains of an immigration depot from where modern indentured labour emerged. Built in 1849, it received indentured labourers from India, China, East Africa and some other parts to work on the island's sugar estates.

Today, only half of the depot area exists with the remains of the sheds for the housing of the immigrants, kitchens, objects they used, lavatories, a hospital block and the symbolic flight of 14 steps upon which all immigrants had to lay foot before entering the depot.

Within the complex is a well-curated museum, offering an in-depth look at the history of indentured labourers who arrived in Mauritius in the 19th century. Reading the explanatory panels proved to be an interesting, albeit sad history and culture of these early immigrants. Stepping out of this museum, one realised why Mauritius is such a lovely melting pot of cultures with descendants of Indians comprising 70 per cent of the 1.3 million population. Entry is free at the Natural History Museum and the Aapravasi Ghat.

Port Louis is impressive, a bustling port city with a blend of colonial and modern architecture. We drove uphill to La Citadelle (Fort Adelaide), which lies between a semi-circle of mountains and a deepwater harbour, and provides a panoramic view of the city and the surrounding mountain ranges. This blackstone fortress, completed in the early 1840s, stood guard against enemy attacks, our guide explains. The fortress is a great place for photography and to enjoy the scenery, weather permitting.

From here, we got a glimpse of the Mauritius Turf Club and the race course, the second largest and among the oldest in the world, situated in the heart of the city.

Our next port of call was the Caudan Waterfront, a charming area with little lanes filled with shops, restaurants, and kiosks retailing music, clothing, food, souvenirs and fresh juices. We enjoyed ambling along and simply watching people and listening to a busker.

To get a taste of local life, there's nothing better than visiting a market. The Port Louis Central Market is an open-air, noisy, bustling place with hundreds of shops selling everything, from fresh produce to textiles, spices, souvenirs, local crafts and food. The shop-keepers vie for your attention and thankfully, bargaining does work. While the experience was rewarding, strolling amidst the crowds in the summer heat was no cakewalk; fresh sugarcane did prove to be invigorating. A riveting experience was to visit the Le Port Ship Model factory in the quaint town of Vacoas-Phoenix where models of ships are handcrafted by experts. One can see women meticulously creating models with skill and dedication and a guide explaining the craft. We were next led to the section where a variety of stunning replicas, from the Titanic to HMS Bounty, The Black Pearl and the Wasa, made of teak and mahogany, alongside miniature models, are for sale.

The point where indentured immigrants first landed at Aapravasi Ghat. PHOTO BY AUTHOR

Natural attractions

Once colonised by the Dutch, French and British, this tiny dot of land in the vast Indian Ocean offers many attractions. The Valley of Colours, a nature park in the midst of tropical forests in the south, is one such. A beautiful spot here is the 23-coloured earth that dates back to millions of years, a phenomenon caused by volcanic activity and mineral deposits. The park is scenic with a couple of waterfalls, ponds, and plenty of greenery, apart from a 1.5-km zipline.

Another natural attraction is the Trou aux Cerfs, a dormant volcano near the town of Curepipe. The volcanic crater is about 600 m above sea level with a diameter of 350 m and a depth of around 100m. All around lie thick greenery including giant pine trees, making the small lake invisible. We learned that the volcano has remained dormant for the last 700,000 years.

Given the number of islands, island hopping on speed boats and catamarans coupled with water sports is popular in the eastern parts.

Driving around the country, one is never far from the Indian Ocean coast or vast stretches of sugarcane fields inland. The people are warm and easy going and one feels quite at home with the large presence of Indian descendants. There are many colourful temples and streets named after Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore and even a Baroda Lane.

Any wonder why Mauritius is called 'Chota Bharat' (Little India) by the locals?

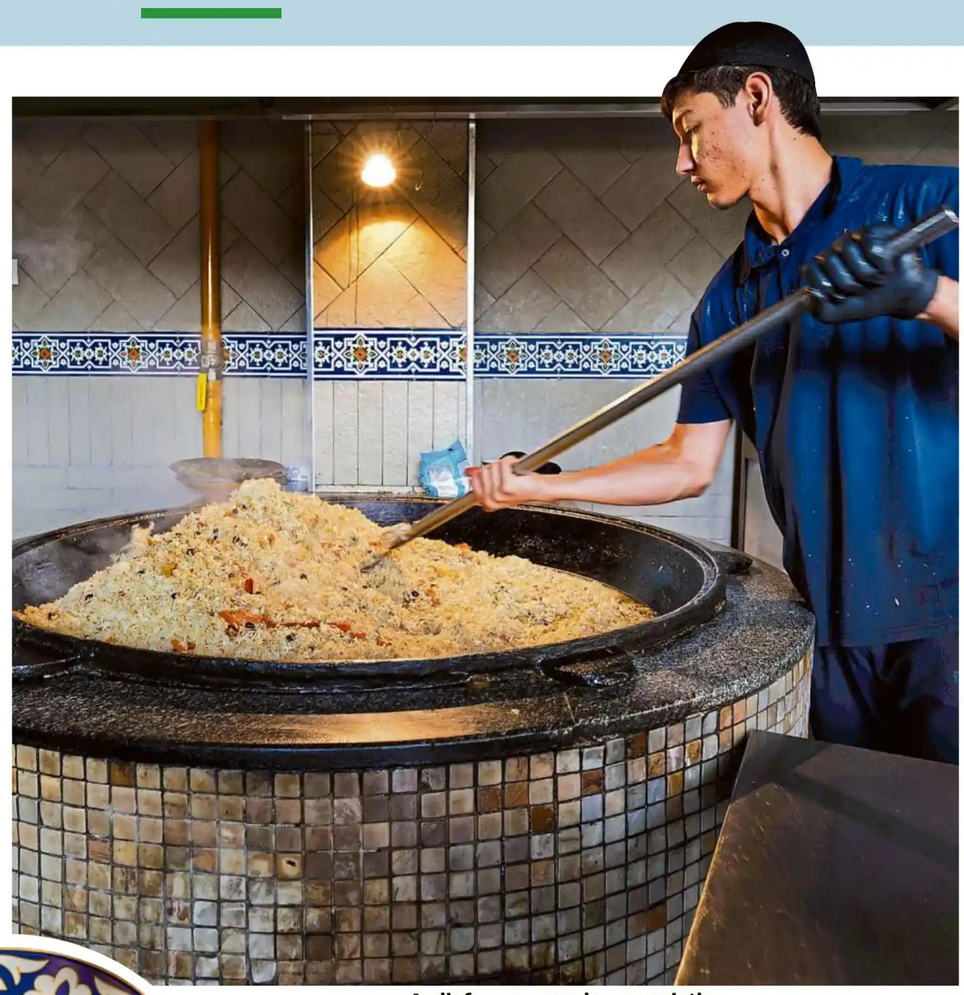
Where the **dodo** lives on

The dodo went extinct in the 17th century but in Mauritius it has been kept alive, symbolically, of course. There are dodo statues in parks and food courts; the bird features on bags, beach towels, beer and rum labels. It even appears on the country's stamps and Coat of Arms.

ALL RISE!

It's pilaf time

The act of cooking pilaf in Uzbekistan is a ritual of sorts. Watching chefs stir saffron-tinged rice, meat, and carrots before serving up tonnes of the dish can be a truly immersive experience, writes Chandreyi Bandyopadhyay



A pilaf qozon nearing completion.

In Uzbekistan, pilaf (or plov) is the equivalent of an epic story. Seen everywhere — in homes, eateries and hotels, the rice dish with meat and spices comes with its own tales. At Besh Qozon in Tashkent, the act of pilaf eating reaches staggering proportions as thousands of people enter and exit the outlet like the ocean's waves. Their largest outlet on Colonel Khodjaev Street sometimes caters to 15,000 people a day traversing through two storeyed eating halls, complete with outdoor seating in shade and takeaway counters. It is a spectacle of a kind. The kitchens are open to visitors as a social media phenomenon, with 21 iron cauldrons simmering in unison — one weighing three tonnes, can cook a tonne of pilaf in one go.

Watching Uzbek cooks stir saffron-stained rice, carrots, and meat with paddles taller than themselves, makes one curious about what really makes pilaf so unique.

Cultural archive

"In Uzbek culture, words often give way to gestures," explains Kamila Erkaboyeva, a culture and tourism consultant from London, and a Tashkent native. From pouring a guest's tea to the brim as a polite hint to leave, to serving plov on a Thursday to suggest conceiving before the holy Friday, women often communicate in this manner. "In my family, it's the men who make pilaf, in a slow, proud ritual where fathers teach sons, and even my brother who usually burns an omelette makes a perfect Sunday plov," she jests.

Pilaf is an inseparable part of any celebration in the country.

Pilaf places, such as the Besh Qozon, are packed at all hours. (PICS COURTESY: JOYDEEP MONDAL)

What began in 1999 in Tashkent with just 'five pots', eponymous to Besh Qozon, has today grown into a culinary institution with outlets across the capital city. The spectacle is as intoxicating as the flavours. The restaurant does five distinct takes on pilaf. Diners don't just come to eat; it is like a cult belief, a phenomenon to witness, and a gathering to be part of.

Among the platefuls we tried, one was enriched with cotton oil, the most authentically Uzbek in style and relevance, as it is made in homes for special occasions only. The cotton oil makes it a layer more greasy. "Wedding plov is inherently more complex and greasy as it is a community meal, and comes with very good quality ingredients," Madina explains.

The cooking process follows a fry first order starting with meat, followed by rice and vegetables. The qozons are covered lightly with small steel plates to be steamed.

While potatoes and carrots are the only vegetables one will find in a plate, the version from Samarkand introduces the goodness of almonds and dried berries while the wedding pilaf also contains boiled chickpeas. Chaykhana pilaf tastes smokier with drier meat, topped with delicate quail eggs (on request) with dolma, which is stuffed meat rolled in pickled grape leaves on the side. The last one was intriguing for a calorific dish like plov, with brown rice, allegedly meant for diabetics. Fergana valley's devsira brown rice with large grains absorbs liquid well, becoming soft, dense, and fluffy while holding their shape.

"In Uzbekistan, we don't count calories. Still, plov has around 360 calories per 100 grams, depending on the region", Kamila added. "That's why it's always served with Achchiq-chuchuk salad, non bread, green tea, and grapefruit vinegar called gurob to balance the meal", she says.

While the atmosphere at the restaurant is electric, the way it is made in homes is a quiet ritual. At Hayot village up in the Nuratau mountains, the homestay owners cooked a pilaf together on a pleasant evening in the guest's honour, in their humble kitchen among apple and apricot orchards. The slow stirs led to an epiphany. The entire interpretation of the dish on a communal dining table becomes the exact representation of an unhurried meal, savoured among the company of loved ones, just as the Uzbeks do.

ORIGIN STORY

Layered history

Plov, pilaf, or pulao — remains one of the most debated rice-and-meat dish origin stories. The Oxford English Dictionary traces the English word pilaf to the Turkish pilav, which in turn, descends from the Persian pilāv. Yet, the linguistic trail doesn't end here. The Persian term is believed to have been borrowed from the Sanskrit pulāka, meaning "a ball of rice," possibly of Dravidian origin. Those from Uzbekistan say palov is an abbreviation of the first letters of the dish's ingredients — P (piyoz-onion), A (aez-carrot), L (lahm-meat), O (olio–oil) and V (vet-salt).

Where and when this dish truly originated continues to be a matter of spirited debate among food historians. Some ancient Sanskrit manuscripts make early references to rice preparations resembling pulao, but it was only after the medieval Central Asian conquests that the richly spiced, meat-laden versions began to appear in Indian accounts, post centuries of culinary exchange and evolution. A better way to understand pilaf is hence, to try it.

Pilaf holds a cultural string to Uzbek life.
PIC COURTESY: JOYDEEP MONDAL

Declared an intangible cultural heritage by UNESCO, osh (as it is called locally) is the centrepiece of all Uzbek celebrations—from weddings and birthdays, return from pilgrimage to mourning feasts to graduation, it is a comfort food.

"It is both a meal and metaphor, as a local joke goes that most children are conceived on Thursdays, thanks to osh", says Komilova Madina, an English speaking Uzbek guide. There is a pilaf for Thursdays, and there is one for holidays, and many other variants for each region.

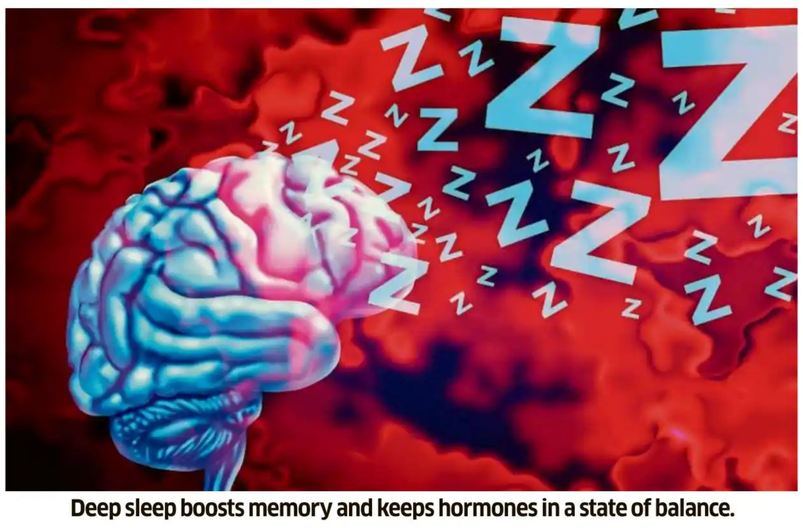
CHANDREYI BANDYOPADHYAY

*(**Origin Story** attempts to satiate your curiosity about the history of a certain ingredient or cuisine.)*

Wellness

How deep is your sleep?

A woman's sleep is connected to her hormones. Any interruption in the sleep cycle impacts both metabolism and thyroid function. The importance of sleep hygiene cannot be stressed enough, writes Dr Ashwini Anil Kumar Sirapanasetty



Deep sleep boosts memory and keeps hormones in a state of balance.

Sleep is not merely rest. It is all about metabolic repair and the invisible architecture of feminine balance.

In women, sleep is deeply interwoven with hormonal intelligence. Unlike men, whose hormonal rhythm follows a relatively stable 24-hour pattern, a woman's physiology works in cycles — circadian, infradian (biological cycles that last more than 24 hours), reproductive, and life-stage transitions. When sleep is disturbed, the entire balance shifts.

Circadian rhythm

At the centre of sleep regulation lies the biological clock in the brain — the suprachiasmatic nucleus — which synchronises light exposure, body temperature, cortisol release, and melatonin secretion.

The hormone melatonin rises in darkness. It does more than induce sleep. In women, melatonin:

- Modulates ovarian function
- Influences follicular maturation
- Acts as a powerful antioxidant in reproductive tissues

When sleep timing becomes irregular, melatonin secretion reduces, and downstream hormonal systems begin to destabilise.

Cortisol and the female stress axis

Cortisol follows a natural rhythm — high in the morning, gradually declining at night. Chronic sleep deprivation flattens this curve.

Dysregulated cortisol can disrupt ovulation, suppress progesterone, increase abdominal fat deposits, worsen premenstrual symptoms (PMS) and premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD), and intensify anxiety. When cortisol remains elevated at night, the body remains in a subtle survival mode, which is incompatible with hormonal harmony.

Sleep and metabolic hormones

Sleep loss directly alters metabolic signalling. Even one week of restricted sleep can shift insulin sensitivity. Reduced sleep increases insulin resistance. Women are particularly vulnerable during the luteal phase, the second half of the menstrual cycle (naturally higher insulin resistance), pregnancy, and perimenopause. This is why chronic poor sleep increases risk of gestational diabetes, PCOS progression, and midlife weight gain. Sleep regulates appetite hormones. Leptin (satiety hormone) decreases with sleep deprivation while ghrelin (hunger hormone) goes up. This leads to cravings — especially for refined carbohydrates.

Thyroid hormones regulate basal metabolic rate (BMR), which is the amount of energy your body requires to ensure basic physiological functions, when it is at rest. Women, being more prone to autoimmune thyroid disorders, may experience fatigue, cold intolerance, weight fluctuations, and menstrual irregularities. When sleep is corrected, thyroid function often stabilises more effectively alongside medical treatment.

A woman's sleep quality shifts across her menstrual cycle. In the follicular phase, estrogen rises, sleep is generally deeper and there is higher resilience to stress. In the luteal phase, progesterone rises (there is a sedative effect initially) and the core body temperature increases. Rapid eye movement (REM) sleep decreases and there are more night awakenings. Premenstrual insomnia is often linked to progesterone withdrawal and increased cortisol sensitivity. Thus, poor sleep before menstruation is physiological — but worsened by chronic stress and blue light exposure.

Emotions and hormones

Sleep deprivation lowers serotonin and dopamine activity. Women are biologically more sensitive to fluctuations in these neurotransmitters due to estrogen interactions. Thus, insufficient sleep can manifest as:

- Irritability
- Emotional overwhelm
- Increased pain perception
- Heightened sensitivity
- Neuroendocrine vulnerability, which is often mistaken for fragility

Pregnancy and postpartum

In pregnancy, sleep becomes lighter and fragmented due to the effect of progesterone, frequent urination, foetal movement and anxiety, among others. Ironically, this is the same period when insulin resistance physiologically increases. If sleep remains inadequate, metabolic strain amplifies.

Postpartum sleep fragmentation alters prolactin rhythm, cortisol stability, and emotional regulation. Sleep deprivation in early motherhood is one of the strongest predictors of postpartum depression — not simply psychological vulnerability, but endocrine exhaustion.

Declining estrogen affects thermoregulation, serotonin balance, and melatonin secretion. Hot flashes disrupt deep sleep and any reduction in deep sleep makes one more insulin resistant. This adds to abdominal adiposity. Adipose tissue alters estrogen metabolism. All these steps turn into a loop. The woman often believes her metabolism is "slowing." In truth, her sleep architecture is shifting.

Metabolic repair phase

During the slow-wave or deep sleep phase, the growth hormone peaks. While tissue repair accelerates, fat metabolism improves. Memory also consolidates during this phase. Reduced deep sleep equals reduced growth hormone release. This lowers muscle mass, increases fat storage and slows recovery. For women balancing caregiving, career, and emotional labour, this loss accumulates silently.

Rest as medicine

True metabolic health in women is not achieved only through diet and exercise. It requires circadian alignment. Sleep hygiene becomes hormonal therapy.

- Consistent sleep timing
- Dim light after sunset
- Protein-rich evening meals
- Reduced late-night glucose spikes
- Nervous system calming rituals

A woman's body is cyclical, not linear. When sleep is honoured, hormones synchronise. When hormones synchronise, metabolism stabilises. When metabolism stabilises, mood softens, and when this happens, the woman returns to herself.

(The author is an obstetrics and gynaecologist-surgeon, tribal reformist, adolescents' sexual and reproductive health counsellor, and senior counsellor of Army Wives' Welfare Association.)

MYTHBUSTER

Does UPF clothing work?

DR PRIYANKA KURI

Sun-protective clothing which comes with ultraviolet protection factor (UPF) rating has begun to grow in popularity. It is seen as an effective method to decrease ultraviolet radiation contact which results in skin cancer development. But to what extent can it be effective? Common misconceptions are that it doesn't work, or that it is the same as regular clothing.

Clothes with UPF labels function as protection from UVA and UVB rays, while sunscreen products only deliver defence against UVB radiation.

A UPF number tells you the fraction of UV radiation that can go through the material. For example, UPF 30 means only about 1/30th (approx. three per cent) of UV rays can get through it, whereas UPF 50+ is capable of blocking up to 98 per cent of the harmful radiation. Dermatology research proves that sun-protective clothing provides effective UV protection which protects the skin from sun damage through its physical barrier properties.

The fabric characteristics of the material heavily determine its effectiveness. When choosing protective clothing, keep these aspects in mind:

- Darker and brighter colours absorb more UV radiation than lighter shades.
- Tightly woven fabrics with minimal gaps offer better protection.
- Synthetic materials like polyester or nylon tend to outperform natural fabrics.
- Specialised treatments or dyes can further increase UPF values.

Skincare guidelines

Dermatology guidelines recommend that you should wear clothing with UPF 30 protection or higher for basic sun protection. The best protection from high UV radiation comes from wearing clothing that has UPF 50+ protection. The statement contains two principal problems which lead to misunderstandings. The term 'UV-protective' which companies use to advertise their products does not indicate that all their clothes provide the same degree of sun protection. The protective capabilities of non-certified clothing depend on the fabrics used and the way people wear it. The use of chemical additives which increase UPF protection for garments creates safety issues because some finishing agents and dyes need long-term safety tests. The UPF protection for treated textiles dies off when the fabric experiences multiple washing cycles and stretching and fabric thinning because of ageing.

You should not view UPF clothing as a complete sun protection method. The product protects only the body parts which it covers. You should also ensure that you apply sunscreen and use other protective products to shield your face, hands or feet from the ultraviolet radiation.

In conclusion, remember that UPF clothing provides benefits only when used properly. The effectiveness of UPF clothing requires correct fabric selection and proper clothing fit and material rating selection. The best protection method for areas with high UV radiation involves using protective clothing together with sunscreen and shade.

(The author is a consultant - dermatology at a Bengaluru hospital.)

*(**Mythbuster** is a column that picks up a popular wellness belief and examines if it is true, false, or maybe lies somewhere in between.)*

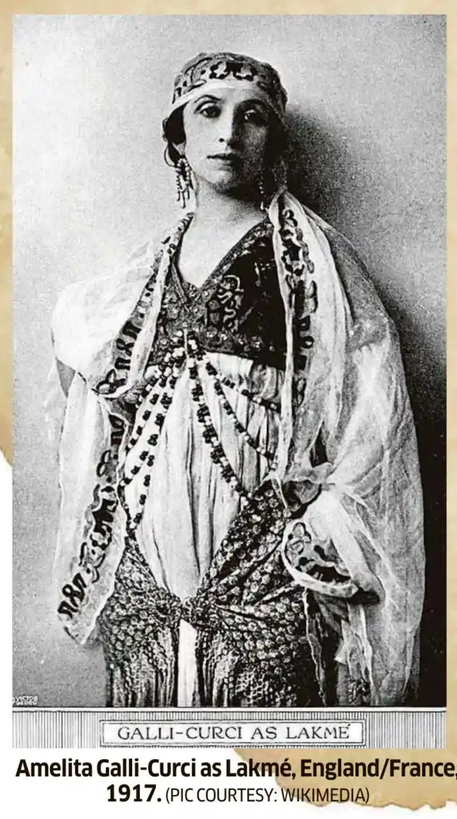
DISCOVER INDIAN ART

Opera and the colonial gaze

A French opera production turned the name of a Hindu goddess into a Parisian sensation, in a fascinating twist shaped by orientalist fashion

Märta Petrini in the Opera Lakmé at Kungliga Operan; Gösta Florman, Sweden, 1890. (PIC COURTESY: WIKIMEDIA)

Did you know that a renowned cosmetic company derives its name from the 1883 French opera Lakmé? The title is a French iteration of Lakshmi, the name of the Hindu goddess of wealth, beauty and prosperity. When the parent group that owns the company set out to establish a makeup line in the 1960s, their French collaborators proposed the same name as an homage to the opera. Tracing the historicity of this name reveals a fascinating story shaped by orientalist aesthetics and fashion.

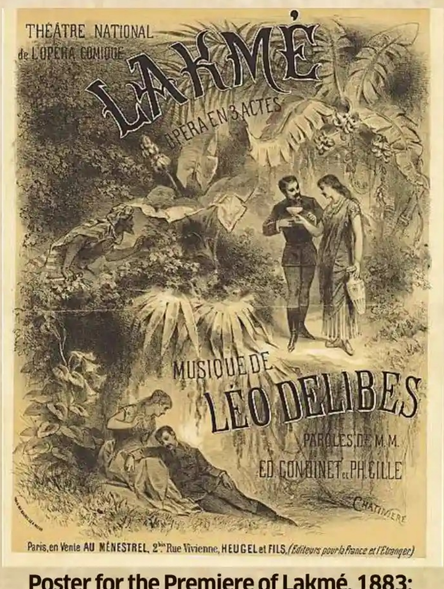


Amelita Galli-Curci as Lakmé, England/France, 1917. (PIC COURTESY: WIKIMEDIA)

Stereo Card From the Series Les Théatres de Paris; Les théatres de Paris published by BK, Paris, 1880s. (PIC COURTESY: WIKIMEDIA)

Lakmé was an opera written by Léo Delibes, a French Romantic composer, set to a libretto by Edmond Gondinet and Philippe Gille, first performed in 1883 at the Opéra-Comique in Paris. It tells the story of Lakmé, daughter of a Brahmin priest, and Gérald, a British army officer, falling in love in 19th-century British India. For Lakmé, this love figuratively saves her from her cruel father; for Gérald, it is portrayed as a seduction away from his duty.

The plot is inspired by Pierre Loti's autobiographical novel, Le Marriage de Loti (1880), which narrates his romance with a Tahitian girl, Rarahu, during his adventures of "going native" in Tahiti. Victorians often used oriental dress and posture to display their exotic travel and cultural immersion. One example is the 1854 photograph of Prince Arthur and Prince Alfred, sons of Queen Victoria, in Indian royal clothes, enacting an oriental scene. According to scholar Julie Codell, "going native" became a popular term in the 18th and 19th centuries as a denigrating reference to Europeans who go beyond temporary immersion, exhibiting "a loss of civilising behaviour and a willing entry into a dangerous, atavistic, natural state through immersion in a 'barbaric' culture" as Loti did.


THÉATRE NATIONAL
de L'OPÉRA COMIQUE
LAKMÉ
OPÉRA EN 3 ACTES
MUSIQUE DE
LÉO DELIBES
PAROLES DE M. M.
ED GONDINET et PH GILLE
Paris, en Vente AU MÉNESTREL, 2bis Rue Vivienne, HEUGEL et FILS, (Éditeurs pour la France et l'Étranger)

Poster for the Premiere of Lakmé, 1883; Lithograph. (PIC COURTESY: WIKIMEDIA)

Interestingly, Loti's Rarahu wasn't a real woman, but a conglomerate of many local Tahitian women he had affairs with. Just as the reductionist orientalism of the original novel was characteristic of the 19th-century genre of "romantic exoticism", Lakmé stages many of the orientalist themes popular in the 1880s: an exotic location, mysterious religious rituals and fanatical priests, beautiful flora and fauna of the Orient, the white saviour contrasted with the "savage" father-figure, and the novelty of a Western colonial living in a foreign land. Its posters foreground the assumed wilderness of the Orient, with a particular focus on banana and plantain leaves. Actors playing Lakmé through the ages embodied oriental archetypes: ornamental headdresses, postures conveying sensuality, excess jewellery, and objects such as the cylindrical pots reminiscent of Arabic cultures, thereby conflating multiple oriental images into one. The opera exemplifies colonial anxiety and fascination with the Orient. Gérald is entranced by Lakmé, the oriental beauty, and is on the verge of confirming marital vows when fellow officers remind him of his duty. Choosing his country over oriental allure, he leaves Lakmé, who kills herself fearing dishonour. In 2012, Opera Australia staged Lakmé with an English actor playing the character, continuing the play and the period's colonial legacy and orientalist aesthetics.

Chandrica Barua, Impart

Discover Indian Art *is a monthly column curated by the editors of Impart, an online platform encouraging greater engagement with South Asia's art and cultural histories. Follow them on Instagram: @impart_org*

MUSEUM MATTERS

Echoes from ancient Kapilavastu

Relics believed to belong to the Buddha have returned to India, carrying with them the stillness of another age, writes
Vissa Venkata Sundar

As you step into the exhibition, a sense of calm surrounds you. Soft Buddhist chants fill the air, and images of monks glow gently across a large dome above. The lighting is warm and soothing, creating a peaceful atmosphere. Around the dome, rare artefacts are carefully placed in glass cases, inviting visitors to pause, observe and reflect.

The exhibition is titled "The Light and the Lotus: Relics of the Awakened One." The name itself hints at something special. It brings together objects that have travelled across countries and centuries. These artefacts once belonged to India but were taken away long ago and ended up in private collections. Today, many of them have returned home, thanks to the efforts of the government and a private organisation working together.

But why are these artefacts so important?

The story begins in 1898, when excavations were carried out at Piprahwa (ancient Kapilavastu), in present-day Uttar Pradesh. During these excavations, archaeologists discovered relics believed to be over 2,400 years old. Inside stone containers, they found ashes and bone fragments. There were also inscriptions written in Brahmi, one of the oldest scripts in India. These inscriptions suggested that the relics belonged to the Buddha and had been placed there by members of the Shakya clan—his family, relatives and successors.

In Buddhism, such relics are called sharirik dhatu, or bodily remains. They are considered extremely sacred. Even objects linked to the Buddha, such as jewels or ornaments, are treated with deep respect. For followers of Buddhism, these relics are not just historical objects — they are symbols of faith and devotion. This is why the discovery at Piprahwa is often described as one of the most important finds in the history of archaeology.

Some of the exhibits on display.
ALL PICS BY AUTHOR

At the centre of the exhibition stands a model inspired by the famous Sanchi Stupa. The structure is designed in three sections, each telling a different part of the story. The first section displays bone relics along with beautifully crafted containers made of crystal and stone. Some of these containers are shaped with great care and detail, showing the high level of skill of ancient craftsmen.

The second section displays gem relics that were recently brought back from abroad. These objects reflect the rich artistry and trade networks of ancient India. They show how materials and ideas travelled across regions, connecting people and cultures.

The third section focuses on reliquaries — special containers used to preserve sacred remains. These include stone vases known for their smooth finish, often linked to the Mauryan period. They show how important it was to protect and honour these relics.

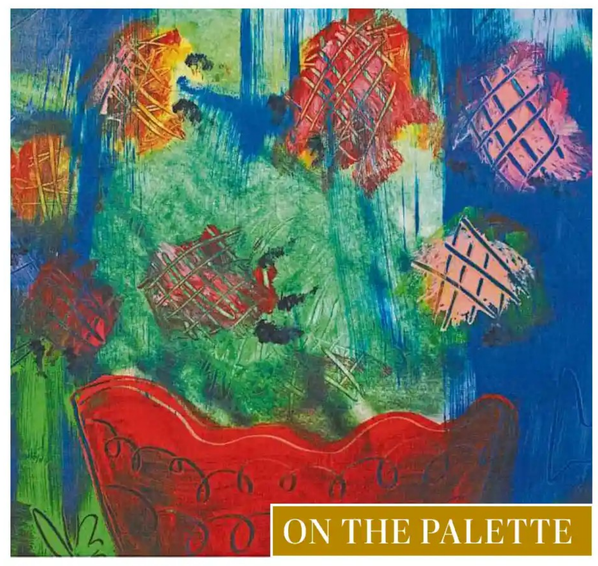
More than 2,000 years ago, Emperor Ashoka played a major role in spreading the teachings of the Buddha. After embracing Buddhism, he sent messengers such as Mahendra and Sanghamitra to different parts of Asia. Through these journeys, the ideas of Buddhism spread to countries like Sri Lanka and beyond. Over time, these teachings influenced art, architecture and ways of thinking across many regions.

At the heart of the Buddha's teachings are simple but powerful ideas. He spoke about understanding suffering, its causes and how it can end. He encouraged people to follow the Middle Path, a life of balance that avoids extremes. Concepts such as change and interdependence remind us that nothing stays the same forever. These teachings continue to guide and inspire people even today.

This exhibition is not just about looking at objects in glass cases. It tells a story; a story of history, faith, loss and return. It reminds us how valuable our cultural heritage is, and why it is important to protect it.

As visitors walk through the exhibition, they are not just seeing artefacts. They are connecting with a past that still lives on in the present. And in that connection lies the true significance of these relics.

In her curatorial exhibition, artist Maansi Jain presents a restless, thinking seascape where borders are dissolved, and memories are like tides, writes
Neha Kirpal

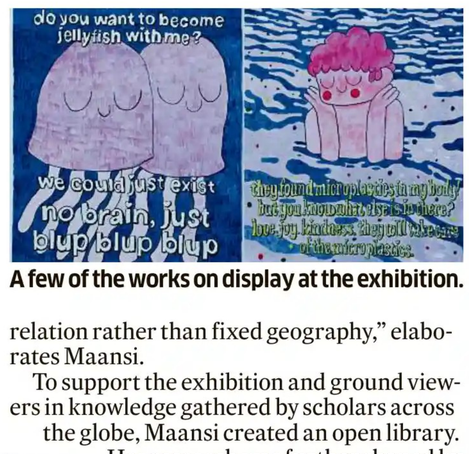


ON THE PALETTE

Mapping the UNBOUNDED SEA

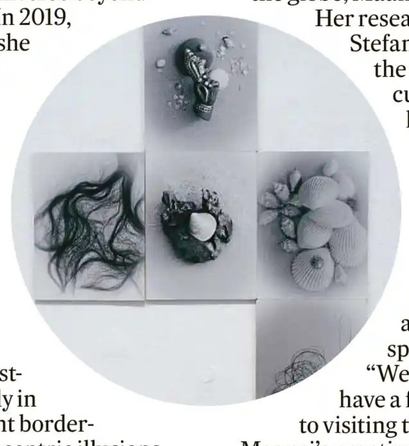
Delhi- and Berlin-based conceptual artist, photographer, poet and writer Maansi Jain specialises in interdisciplinary documentary and conceptual projects. Her recently concluded curatorial project, Between the Gulf of Blank and the Bermuda Triangle, was a conceptual art exhibition for oceanic thinking and ecological entanglement. The show's title draws from the headline-making confusion around renaming the Gulf of Mexico, the rumoured phenomenon of the Bermuda Triangle, and the vast ocean that connects these — physically and psychologically.

"For many years, I have wanted to deepen my research into the ocean as a sculptural and ecological force upon the Anthropocene, our planet and the universe beyond Earth," explains Maansi. In 2019, she curated an exhibition she geolocated "near Goa" via her sculpture, which now serves as the prologue to Between the Gulf of Blank and the Bermuda Triangle.


do you want to become jellyfish with me?
we could just exist
no brain, just blup blup blup
they found microplastics in my body but you know what, there is life there? love, joy, kindness, they still take care of the micro plastics

A few of the works on display at the exhibition.

As she compiled oceanic research from lesser-known scholars and communities around the world, she sought to include works shaped by artists' experiences of coastlines and oceans, especially in light of the ocean's inherent borderlessness, despite anthropocentric illusions. Seven years later, an image that prodded her into action was Kaichen Li's Sea Level Line, a poetic seaside scape of Italians in cowboy hats assembled for a group activity — an intriguingly dissonant mix of symbols and truths documented by a Chinese artist.



The show brings together 12 artists from India and abroad, including Madhu Venugopalan, Aastha Jain and Anubhav Saini. "The ocean is not divided by coastlines, but by gradients of temperature, salinity and density. These invisible boundaries structure movement, perception and life itself. Currents form not through borders, but through difference: warm against cold, light against weight. In this sense, the ocean operates as a sculptural field, where form emerges from relation rather than fixed geography," elaborates Maansi.

To support the exhibition and ground viewers in knowledge gathered by scholars across the globe, Maansi created an open library. Her research was further shaped by Stefanie Hessler's Prospecting the Ocean, which maps the current state of oceanic knowledge production across disciplines, notably through a non-linear lens. The library also features a playlist by autodidact musician DVDV, with music inspired by the ocean. Poetry, fiction and text as art also find space in the programme.

"We wanted our audience to have a full-body experience akin to visiting the ocean," she adds.

Maansi's practice engages photography as a material surface, transforming analogue images into sculptural forms that interrogate memory, displacement and spatial perception. Alongside this, she maintains a rigorous works-on-paper practice, exploring architectural grids, temporal mapping, abstraction and surrealist figurations as systems for organising lived experience.

Her performances draw on feminist and South Asian modernist histories, reactivating figures such as Amrita Sher-Gil and Kamala Das through embodied painting and text. Her performance at Contemporary Fine Arts in December last year marked the culmination of years of research into Sher-Gil's life, including field trips across India to access her works.

MOTLEY GARDEN

Surprise guests and their idiosyncrasies

Every unwanted plant deserves a second look, but seeing it again does not mean it is welcome. A good gardener learns to tell the difference, writes
Subhashini Chandramani

Every time the garden gets a makeover, fresh soil is brought in, pots are renewed, and beds are turned over, I wait. Not for the plants whose seeds I have sown, but for the unplanned ones. Within weeks, sometimes days, something appears. A small leaf, then another. An unfamiliar stem pushing up through the new earth. A guest that the soil itself has brought to the party.

Over the years, many such plants have made my garden their home. They grow, seed, and establish themselves. They die back in one season and return in the next. I have stopped pulling most of them out. Not out of laziness, but out of recognition. It is a great gardening mistake, the reflex to weed before we identify. Each time I looked, I found I was being offered something valuable for free.

The one that has stayed the longest is *Oxalis corniculata*, Creeping Wood-sorrel, often known as hulisoppu in Kannada. It has trifoliate leaves, and each leaflet looks like a heart. It can be easily mistaken for clover. The leaves are mildly sour, with a clean lemon bite from the oxalic acid. We add the leaves to the dal, where the sourness works brilliantly alongside a bit of tempering. It spreads readily and sports tiny yellow flowers. It is also an excellent bee attractor.

The second is *Commelina benghalensis*, Tropical Spiderwort, often called kanne soppu in Kannada.

It announces itself with a tiny three-petalled flower, so blue it seems almost implausible. The plant spreads cheerfully along moist soil, and its leaves are cooked or fried as fritters. It is nutritious, freely available, and entirely ignored by urban gardeners who often mistake it for a weed and pull it out.

Tropical Spiderwort

The third lies along the ground: *Eclipta prostrata*, or Bhringraj, also called false daisy. It is a low-growing plant with unremarkable small white flowers. But Bhringraj is one of Ayurveda's most valued herbs, the cornerstone of almost every traditional hair oil grandmothers swore by. Every bottle of Neelibhringadi seems to owe something to it. It arrived in my garden for free, but they appear seasonally.

The fourth is *Phyllanthus niruri*, also known as nela nalli in Kannada. It has tiny oval leaves arranged in a perfect feather along a pink-tinged stem. Small, round fruits line the underside of each branch like beads on a string.

Another Ayurvedic staple, it is traditionally prescribed for kidney stones, liver conditions and jaundice. It is a small, inconspicuous plant that grows quietly out in the open.

The fifth is *Crotalaria retusa*, the rattlepod, also known as gulugulluppahalli in Kannada. It is named for the sound the dried seeds make inside their inflated pods when you shake them; a sound children discover within seconds and adults find equally irresistible.

The flower spike is a long raceme of bright yellow blooms that look like a flock of small birds huddled together. It draws a variety of butterflies and is a nitrogen-fixer, quietly improving the quality of soil it grows in.

But the soil does not curate. Along with the welcome guests come the ones who overstay, spread without invitation, and have no intention of leaving. The sixth arrived years ago: *Grona triflora*, the three-flowered tick trefoil, called Kaadu Pullampurasi in Kannada. It grows close to the ground, below the mowing blade, spreading like a thick mat. The sticky seed pods hitchhike on shoes and tools, moving to new corners before you notice. I did not act quickly enough.

It took over the lawn completely, and it took me a year of persistent pulling to reclaim it. It still appears here and there, and I wrench it out.

Every uninvited plant deserves a second look. But a second look is not the same as an open invitation.

This is the truth about fresh soil. It comes with gifts and with trouble, often in the same bag. These are five plants I am grateful for and one I am still fighting. The soil does not distinguish between what you want and what you do not. That sorting is left to the gardener. And a good gardener learns to notice before removing.

Motley Garden *is your monthly kaleidoscopic view into a sustainable garden ecosystem. The author believes gardens are shared spaces where plants and creatures thrive together. She can be reached at allthingsinmygarden@gmail.com or on social media at @allthingsinmygarden*

False Daisy

PAWS & LIFE

Being like fur in the sunlight

A tiny white cloud floats almost poetically in my living room as it catches the breeze from our fan, set on the highest possible speed setting, and drifts its way towards the open window.

My clothes, most of which are black, suddenly have a definite white tinge to them, one that sadly has no designer edge to it.

Our normally grey couch looks like a giant, immobile polar bear sprawled out on the floor in our living room, completely out of place in the 39°C heat that the scorching sun relentlessly pours over us.

You guessed right! Fur — here, there and everywhere — like a blanket covering our home, and us with it. It's April, and yes, the heat is on. So is the fur shedding. All pet parents know exactly what I'm talking about; it's the most tedious part of taking care of a pet.

Our Sydney is a groodle and the "oodle" part of that breed is supposed to ensure that she doesn't shed fur. But, as I keep teasing her, we need to apply for a refund, as she sure does. Her fur magically weaves itself into balls that hide within the nooks and corners of every room, and then, at a time only they're privy to, they set themselves free and float around our flat almost idyllically. I envy them their lightness and freedom.

There's something completely liberating about the thought of being able to effortlessly shed something once or twice a year. To be able to let something go, let it float out of your life and out into the world — no resistance, no looking back. And this drew me into making a shedding wish list.

I wish I could shed my inhibitions — my fears and doubts; things that plague me and hold me back. I wish I could let these inhibitions loose, let them fly out of that open window, drift towards our grey, high AQI sky, and never be seen again. To stop second-guessing every instinct, to not rehearse conversations in my head before I've even had them, to not shrink myself into spaces I have every right to occupy. To trust that what I bring to the table is enough, and to never question whether I belong, to simply know that I do.

I wish I could shed the weight of other people's opinions — those who mostly don't matter. The imagined judgments, the passing remarks that take up far more space in my head than they ever deserve. The need to explain, justify, and almost always defend. To remember that other people's approval is overrated.

Shedding season is a chore for pet parents, but there's something liberating about being able to let something float gently out of your life, writes **Nalini Sorensen**

Fur shedding is the most tedious part of pet grooming, but there is a bright side to it.

To exist fully and freely as me, and to never feel that I have to perform for acceptance.

I wish I could shed the negativity that seems to shroud all the new ideas that float into my head. That voice that arrives uninvited, armed with a list of reasons why something won't work, why I shouldn't even try. To let ideas land lightly, like fur in the sunlight — unburdened, unjudged — and to hold onto them just long enough to see where they might go.

I wish I could shed those extra calories. The ones that I knowingly load on (well, hello, ice-cream in my freezer), and the ones where the math seems so off (how could that sandwich possibly have 50,000 calories?) But more than that, I wish I could shed the guilt that tags along with every indulgence — the quiet bargaining, the unnecessary self-reproach. I wish I could eat with abandon, with delight, without attaching a number to it. There's something deeply enviable about an uncomplicated relationship with food.

I wish I could shed my worries and anxieties. The future looks so grim and seems to be loaded with layer upon layer of disastrous could-bes. The endless what-ifs that pile up, each heavier than the last, until the present moment feels almost suffocated. I wish I could feel the relief of not worrying about tomorrow or yesterday's mess, and just be entirely, beautifully here.

Perhaps that's the real lesson in all this shedding, not just what to let go of, but what to hold onto. The now. The lightness of the present moment, like that wisp of fur catching the breeze — unheld, unhurried, and finally free.

The writer is an award-winning children's author who loves dogs, children, and books — the order changes daily. Write to her at nalinisorensen @gmail.com

Paws & Life *is a monthly column that reflects on how our pets shape the way we live, love, and learn.*

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